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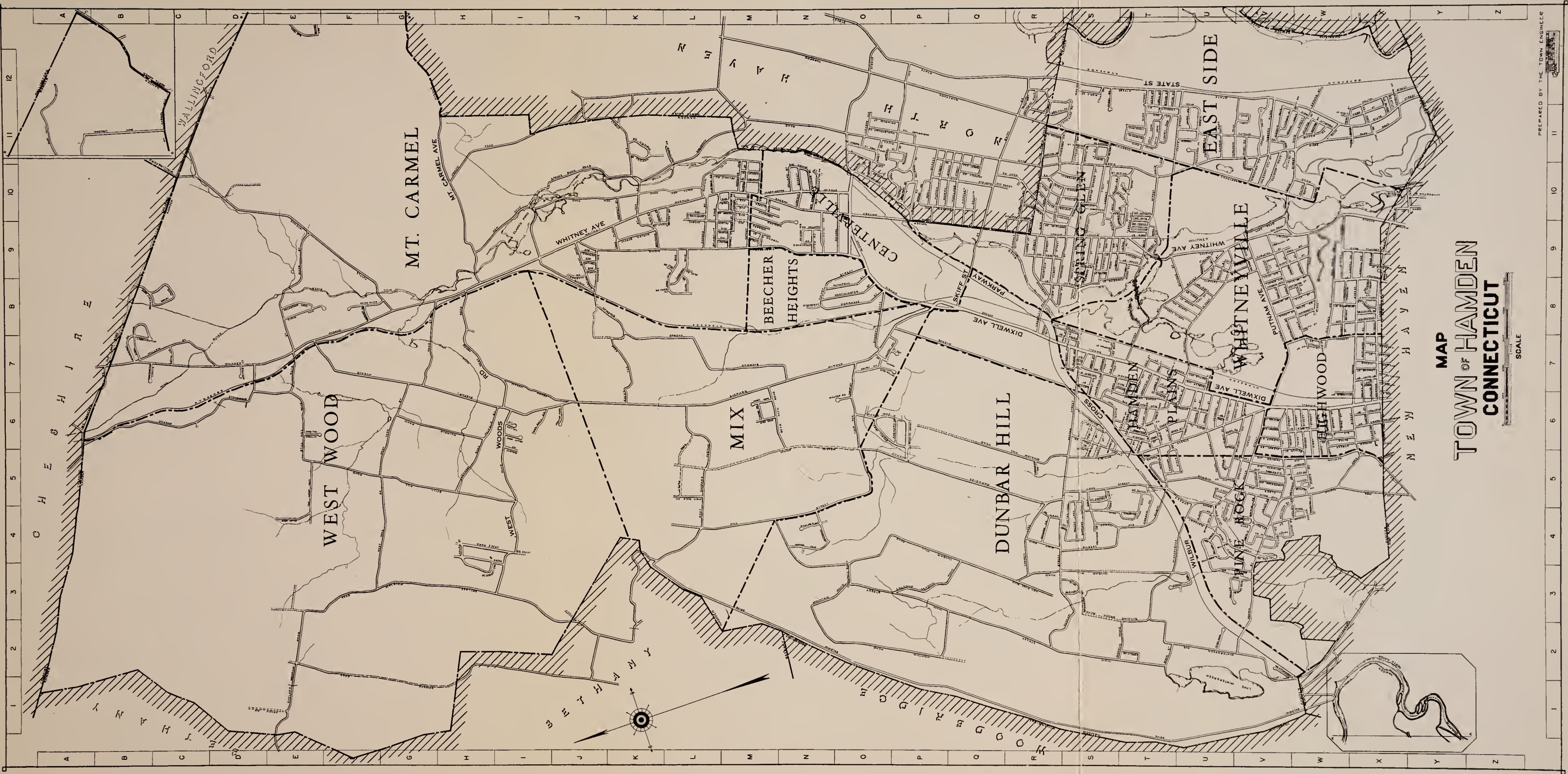
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MAP
TOWN OF HAMDEN
CONNECTICUT



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MAP
TOWN OF HAMDEN
CONNECTICUT

SCALE

The HISTORY OF HAMDEN CONNECTICUT

1786-1959

by

RACHEL M. HARTLEY



The Shoe String Press, Inc.
Hamden, Connecticut
1959

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by
RACHEL M. HARTLEY

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PREFACE

THE many things of importance that have happened in Hamden since it separated from New Haven in 1786, make a story that has color and vitality in every period. The town twice sponsored volumes dealing with historical matters—following its 100th and its 150th anniversary celebrations; and the tempo of progress and achievement has increased with the continuing growth of the town in every direction.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to Arnold Dana for old pictures and for details about the Sleeping Giant; to Charles Rufus Harte for material on the Farmington Canal; to Laurretta Plumley, who wrote the sesquicentennial pageant, for Indian lore; and to Professor Frank Monaghan of Yale University for historical criticism. Much about the school system and early school board action was supplied by my father, Charles F. Clarke, from his memories of 17 years service on the board. Particular guidance and help were given by F. Raymond Rochford.

The loan of valuable family papers and documents from older residents, as well as their accounts of early events, were most helpful. An attempt has been made here to show not only the necessary dates and facts, but anecdotes portraying consistent behavior that marked the character of the town with its own corporate personality.

One may observe currently that townspeople are prone to say, "I wonder if the town will let me do so and so," or "Our town has a definite policy in regard to such matters."

P.O. #1030- 8-30-73- See string 6th.

Preface

Hamden's parent was the theocracy of New Haven Colony with its established Congregational Church so long in practical control of the governmental powers, and to whose church services our first settlers, who were almost exclusively farmers, traveled so far.

Hamden's grandparent was the State of Connecticut, "the land of steady habits" where people pay as they go, and whose natures have become as flinty as the uncountable rocks and stones that they have been forced to move in clearing and farming their land.

We are one of the largest towns in New Haven County, comprising 32 square miles (or 21,054 acres); and our mid-history shows that we branched out from our agricultural pursuits to become Yankee gadget-makers in company with other similar Connecticut towns.

In the town's most recent years, rapid residential and industrial increases have rounded out the picture of olden and modern history, in which Hamden has kept abreast of the times with a level head and without losing her basic characteristics and personality.

R.M.H.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PART I — THE COLONIAL PERIOD . . .	I
PART II — NEW ROOTS IN OLD SOIL . . .	95
PART III — WHEELS BEGIN TO TURN . . .	231
PART IV — ONLY THE GIANT SLEEPS . . .	351
PART V — THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH .	447
BIBLIOGRAPHY AND APPENDIX	471
INDEX	493

ILLUSTRATIONS

Map of Hamden	<i>Frontispiece</i>
Indian Corn Grinding Stone, Dunbar Hill Road	<i>Facing page</i> 12
Christopher Todd House, 1665, South of the Mill Dam	“ “ 13
The Cut in the Mount Carmel Steps . .	“ “ 48
Joel Munson's Mill Flume	“ “ 49
Amos Bradley House, 1766, North of the Mountain	“ “ 56
Hamden's First Schoolhouse, 1770, in Its Second Position "On the Brow of the Hill"	“ “ 57
Tollgate House on the Cheshire Turnpike	“ “ 136
Eli Whitney	“ “ 137
The Jonathan Dickerman "Old Red House"	“ “ 184
Whitney Armory and Covered Bridge in 1825	“ “ 185
Canal and Railroad Near Brooksvale . .	“ “ 208
Upper Axle Works	“ “ 209
Hamden's Oldest Gravestone, 1751 . . .	“ “ 224
April 31 Gravestone in West Woods . .	“ “ 225
Peter Nielsen's Whitneyville Blacksmith Shop	“ “ 240
West Woods One-Room School	“ “ 241
The Rectory School, Centerville	“ “ 252
The Mount Carmel Young Ladies' Female Seminary	“ “ 253
"The Transfiguration" Painted by Bancel La Farge	“ “ 278

Illustrations

Ithiel Town's Covered Bridge at Davis Street	<i>Facing page</i>	279
Ives and Grannis Letterhead	" "	292
The Mount Carmel Post Office, Ivesville, James Ives' Store on Opposite Corner	" "	293
The Centerville Web Shop, Where Good-year Shoes Were First Made	" "	304
Kimberly Store and Lower Axle Works	" "	305
Old State Street School	" "	316
Sackett Hotel (The "New" Centerville House), Northeast Centerville Corner Whitney Avenue, 1847-1880, Showing Railroad Tracks in the Road	" "	317
Elam Dickerman's Depot Store	" "	328
Bolt Company Employees	" "	329
Whitneyville Post Office, on Whitney Avenue at Augur Street	" "	336
Showing Day's Store and Boathouse, and the Old Icehouses	" "	337
St. John the Baptist's First Meetinghouse	" "	360
The Old Hamden Plains Methodist Church	" "	361
Centerville Crossroads in 1836	" "	408
The Door Tree, in Sleeping Giant Park	" "	408
Mount Carmel Churchgoers in Costume on Sesquicentennial Sunday	" "	409
Sesquicentennial Group at Town Hall	" "	440
Part of Sesquicentennial Parade, showing Selectmen's Carriage	" "	441
The Giant Views Change and Progress	" "	454
The Sleeping Giant	" "	455

Part I
The Colonial Period

PART I

THE COLONIAL PERIOD

THE WILDERNESS BEGINS TO FLOWER

IN the shadow of the same Sleeping Giant which overlooks our closely built houses, busy streets, and factories of Hamden today, were once only the forests and streams that the Indians knew. Throughout all the many changes of modes and of men which have passed in review since then before him, the old Giant—lying here through incalculable years—has inspired all those who have seen him. The Indians who loved him, the sturdy New Haven pioneers as they edged out into the wilderness, and we ourselves have looked upon him as a majestic landmark and a symbol of latent strength.

Who among all those early people could have foreseen that Eli Whitney's experiment which shaped the industrial world of today would have its origin in this place? that canal boats—both clumsy freighters and dainty packets—would at one time be the major form of transportation through the whole length of the town? that casks for West India rum, axles for peddlers' wagons that roamed the far south, and the first Good-year rubber shoes would be made here and sent out to distant corners of the earth?

Many notable men as well as important manufactures have gone out to far places from this small New England town—a town whose size and age are not the measure by which to gauge her greatness. Hamden has been slowly evolving a personality, made up of all the

countless happenings and doings of the past and of the moving present; she has characteristics and folklore; old houses antedating her incorporation as a town, that are still standing in simple and impressive dignity after nearly two hundred years; stories of the old-time trotting races in the heart of Centerville, where were also uniformed schoolboys drilling in a nationally famous military school; and public schoolteachers content with a 75-cent weekly salary.

Even the Giant himself had a beginning; and while we know his charms and the beauties of other hills and valleys, fields and streams of our town as they are today, yet we also know that these contours were not always so, that they have evolved through countless years in a gradual progressive change that made a story—though told without words, still an eloquent one.

In dim past ages Connecticut was covered with lofty mountains which in the course of centuries were planed down by weather and running water, to their bare roots. Weaker bed rock wore down faster, but at last the whole area became a great, comparatively flat plain, broken here and there with large, slow-moving rivers. Streams from the uplands deposited a red sediment which when piled up on this low plain began to force the original land surface to subside.

Then a great break in the earth's crust appeared near Branford, and the land on the western side of the fault began to sink. At least three different times eruptions of a volcanic nature occurred, opening huge fractures deep enough to reach down to liquid rock, which sprang up and filled them to the top.

When the lava cooled in the fissures it formed what is called trap rock; and its ridges or trap dykes stand up as East and West Rocks, Pine and Mill Rocks, and

Mount Carmel. The eruptions caused a mixture of fire-made rock with the water-made sandstone. In time an almost uniform uplift of northern New England tilted the old plain gently toward the Atlantic. Then the streams flowed more swiftly, cutting deeper valleys, and again the weaker bed rock was more rapidly eroded than the harder, more resistant rocks, which became the hills.

In the Ice Age came the great glacier, so thick that it covered the highest points, moving slowly southward, carrying with it soil, stones, and blocks of bed rock which it dropped along the way. Whenever the ice loosened its grasp, it left behind high and broad plains, rich fertile lands, and clay beds which were later used for brick-making. The sandstone of the valleys was deeply excavated, but the hard trap rock, though somewhat broken off, suffered little from the glacier's action and was left in prominent ridges.

By the time a more temperate climate had freed Connecticut of the glacier, most of the original covering had been carried away, but boulders and soil from Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire were inherited in its place. Large boulders were carried from the north, traveling anywhere from fifteen to seventy-five miles with the glacier, to be dropped in the New Haven region. The great stones of the Judges' Cave on West Rock were among them, and if the cave was once a single rock it must have weighed a thousand tons. It is of a fine-grained stone quite different from the top of West Rock where it stands. There are many such boulders in the New Haven area, weighing over ten tons, which must have been carried by an agent much more powerful than running water.

On Shepard Avenue the group of large rocks called "The Brethren" is Hamden's outstanding example of

such boulders; they made the journey with the glacier from some place many miles north of here. Other traces of the glacier's progress are the small lakes and the "pot-holes," or "Giant's Kettles." There was once one of these at the roadside by the Lake Whitney dam; and one can now be seen close by Mather Street. The *New Haven Palladium*, October 24, 1881, told of the filling in of a huge kettle, or "punch bowl," two miles south of Centerville on the railroad, 150 feet in diameter and 100 feet deep; in the center was a huge chestnut tree, its branches reaching the top of the hole, which was filled in around the tree.

The passing of the great glacier ten thousand years ago was a mere yesterday to geologists, who have familiar knowledge of the period when the Connecticut River was cutting the valley millions of years ago, and even before that, when the whole state was a great monotonous plain.

THE SLEEPING GIANT

Some geologists have maintained that the Connecticut River once flowed straight down the state to New Haven Harbor, but that its course was deflected in the Ice Age, swerving at Middletown to its present channel toward Saybrook. One writer said that New Haven evened up this loss by eventually taking Yale College from Saybrook. Although this belief is no longer held, a similar explanation was made by the Indians of this region, who told a colorful tale of the "Long River" being taken from their valley and moved to the eastward, and of how the Sleeping Giant came to be here. The story was that the Indians were very proud of their river, jealously guarding and cherishing its use, never

forgetting to give thanks to their special gods for the blessings bestowed upon them, and particularly for those gained from their possession of the beautiful river. But alas! they failed to do honor to Hobbamock, the spirit of evil, who in his anger at their neglect, and because of their devotion to the god of water, determined to wreak vengeance upon them. Wrathfully he stamped down his foot in the center of the river bed, making the Long River waters roll to the eastward.

But all was not lost. Kiehtan, the Indians' good spirit, saw what had happened, and, although powerless to undo the great harm, was yet able to moderate the blow which had fallen upon his faithful believers, for he cast a spell of endless sleep upon Hobbamock. He then hid treasures in the pockets of the sleeper, saying as he did so that some day these would be sought and the children of the valley would be repaid for the loss of their beloved river. It was long after the Indians were gone that the Giant's pockets were examined and found to contain copper, silver, gold, iron, quartz, and lead—in small quantities to be sure—still, treasures of a sort they were.

The Sleeping Giant, first known and loved by the Indians, had a part in many of their legends. They explained the presence of the large boulders on the East Haven hills by saying that the Giant, in his dying agonies, flung them there after wresting them from the soil of Cheshire.

It was said that the Indians from the north used to make regular trips to the seashore for fish. They were extremely fond of oysters, and a chief once so over-indulged in the favorite delicacy that drowsiness overcame him and he lay down to rest awhile. A wicked spirit who found him outstretched in heavy slumber

amused himself by casting upon the recumbent chief a spell from which he never awakened. Indian mothers often warned their too-greedy children by gesturing toward the mountain and repeating the legend of the gluttonous chief doomed to eternal sleep.

Scientists have described the small crater on the fifth mountain as that of an extinct volcano. It is two hundred feet in diameter, and specimens of lava have been dug from its center. But the Indians said that the upheaval was caused when the Giant once suffered a nightmare in which he moved a restless foot!

In early colonial days a hunter by the name of Samuel Payne made a long trip after game to the forests of the Giant. Upon his return home he told glowing tales of the marvelous view from the top of the hills, in which he saw a great long island stretching away over the sea for a tremendous distance. He said that while he was hunting he discovered a lake of surpassing beauty. The Indians whom he encountered told him of their veneration of the place as the abode of the spirits of their race. They believed that the good god Kiehtan dwelt in a frowning pinnacle of rock where, high above the valley, he held council with his followers when they came there to seek his guidance. The hunter stood one unforgettable evening just at nightfall, drinking in the wild beauty of the wilderness lake. The moonlight tipped the trees with light and glinted softly on the water. There was no sound, but as he watched, a birch-bark canoe glided from a cavern at the base of a cliff and across the surface of the lake.

After the red man's passing, this lake eventually became no more than a spring of clear mountain water, a present-day reminder of that early time when the Indians believed that a deity ruled over the place, giv-

ing forth oracles from this sheltered spot, hidden among the huge forest trees.

The mountain has been called by three distinct and appropriate names. The earliest one, "the Blue Hills," originated from the deep blue color which the whole range holds when viewed from a distance. Mount Carmel, the name given to the ecclesiastical parish by the General Assembly of 1757, was also used to designate the mountain, which continued to be so called after the parish was absorbed into Hamden. No one knows who chose the title, but it was doubtless suggested by the Biblical allusion to Mount Carmel in the Holy Land, and seemed a fitting name for this place with its own beautiful majestic mountain.

The third name, "the Sleeping Giant," has been used more frequently as a title in recent times, although the singular likeness to a huge recumbent man has always been recognized.

The Giant's ample form is plainly visible from a great distance; it is two miles long—the height of his chin above sea level is 540 feet, and his 736-foot chest is the highest point of his figure. One can believe that the New Haven colonists saw him as one of their first landmarks, standing out in bold relief against the northern horizon. Theophilus Eaton may have been impressed with the Giant's grandeur and the desirability of making him a part of the Colony; and purchase of the land including the Giant was one of the earliest transactions between Eaton and Davenport and the Indians.

THE FIRST WHITE MEN

Dutch traders were the first white men to come to New Haven Harbor. In 1614 Adrian Block caught

sight of the setting sun shining on the bright red face of East Rock, and was inspired thereby to name the place "Roodenbergh," or "Red Hills." In the years between 1614 and the coming of the English to New Haven in 1638, the Dutch traders did a profitable business with the Indians in animal pelts, chiefly beaver, from which fact the Beaver Ponds received their name. The trading company's records showed the receipt of 63,000 skins within a nine-year period.

The New Haven colonists were among those unhappy Puritans who came to New England to escape the tyrannical rule of Charles I. During the years between 1620 and 1640, as many as 20,000 English people migrated to this region and established settlements from Boston to the Connecticut River, embracing large areas which they confidently expected to be occupied in time by a continual influx of their countrymen. But in 1640 the autocratic government of Charles was tottering. It was the beginning of the Cromwellian revolution, in which the Puritans were coming into power. Not only did emigration to New England cease, but many who had settled in the new country decided to return to England, where it was felt that a better government might be had without the hardships attendant upon building one across the seas.

The New Haven settlement, in common with the Connecticut River towns, set out to be a port of trade. Its leaders were men of wealth and education, who planned to continue a comfortable and profitable business life.

In the spring of 1638 Theophilus Eaton purchased from Momauguin, chief of the Quinnipiac Indians, the original tract on which the New Haven colonists settled. He paid for it with 12 coats of English trucking

cloth, 12 alchemy spoons, 12 hatchets, 12 hoes, 24 knives, and 12 porringers.

In November of the same year Eaton bought of Montowese, chief of Mattabeseck (Middletown), an additional piece of land, going 10 miles northward from the original purchase and extending for 8 miles east of the Quinnipiac and 5 miles to the west—together about 130 square miles, paying for it with 11 coats of trucking cloth and a fine coat for the chief. In this tract were what later became Hamden, North Haven, East Haven, Woodbridge, Wallingford, Cheshire, Branford and North Branford, and portions of Orange and Meriden.

THE QUINNIPIACS

The peaceful Quinnipiac Indians were from the beginning friendly to the white man and quite willing to share with him the bountiful gifts of Nature which more than supplied their simple needs. They supposed that the white man would wish nothing more than a place to live, enough land to till for his own table, and freedom of the woods and streams in which to hunt and fish. They little dreamed that his coming meant the vanishing of wild life—fish, animals, and birds—vanishing forests, and at last, inexorably pressed back farther and farther from their beloved home, the vanishing of the Indians themselves.

The Indians used signs and symbols as much as spoken words. Often these symbols were ceremonious and impressive. The sale of land was consummated by the chief taking a clump of earth and sod and offering it to the purchaser as a symbol that all things growing within the soil of this property were hereby given to

him. One of his followers then took a twig from a pine tree and stuck it into the piece of turf as a symbol that all which lay beneath the branches of their forests was also given to the "white brother." In this poetic manner did the land pass from the native Indian to the white man.

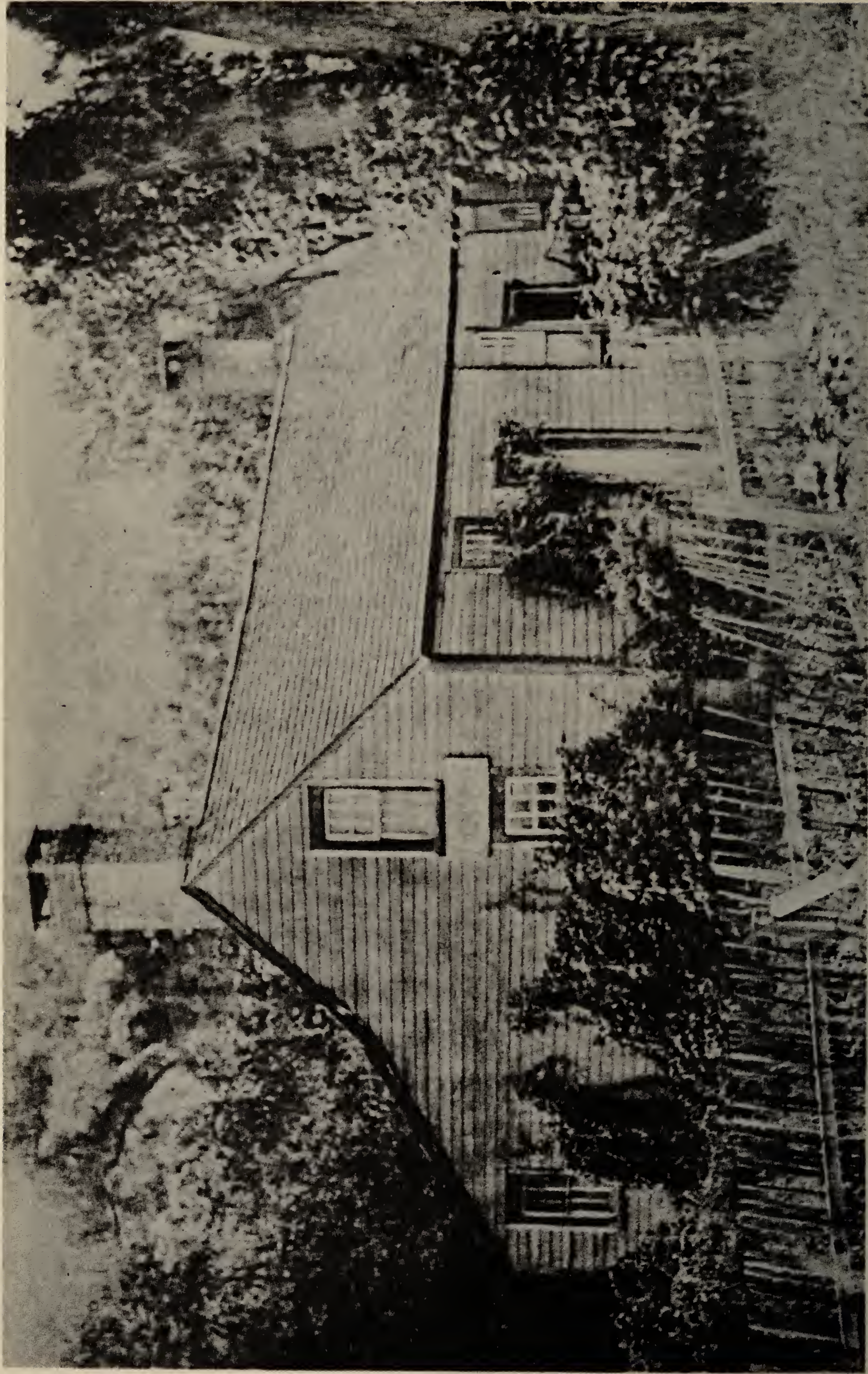
Reverend Benjamin Trumbull of North Haven, writing in 1779, estimated that in 1633 there were as many as 20,000 Indians in Connecticut, but this figure has been vehemently disputed by other historians, who do agree, however, that there were many more in Connecticut than elsewhere in New England. The fondness of the Indians for seafood was doubtless a prime reason for so many making their homes on the Sound and the banks of the rivers, as is evidenced by the old middens of clam and oyster shells which have been found along the shores. Probably they lived by the shore in the summer time and in the forests in the winter.

There was an Indian cave, or rock shelter, in Pine Rock in western Hamden, in which were found in 1910 stone implements, daggers, skinning knives, pottery, and the bones of deer, elk, bear, raccoon, fox, beaver, and blackfish, and heaps of clam and oyster shells. These articles were removed to the Peabody Museum of Yale University, where they were placed on exhibition. The shelter was completely destroyed in 1912 by a heavy dynamite blast from the near-by quarry. On Dunbar Hill there is a large flat stone, hollowed out in the center, where an old squaw used to grind her corn.

It is impossible to say how many of the Quinnipiacs inhabited our own forests in more remote times. When the colonists came, they were situated in a village on the east side of New Haven Harbor in East Haven,



Indian Corn Grinding Stone, Dunbar Hill Road



Christopher Todd House, 1665, South of the Mill Dam

Gift of Arnold G. Dana

where they had 30 acres of tillable land. In 1638 there were 47 in Momauguin's band, and 10 warriors and their families in that of Montowese. Charles Townsend* estimates that there were 100 around New Haven in 1680. Their last sachem died about 1730, and by 1773 most of the survivors had gone to join their cousins, the Tunxis, at Farmington. In 1807, when Reverend Timothy Gillett came to Branford, there was only one squaw remaining, Lydia by name, who came once or twice from her wigwam to attend his midweek lecture, leaving with the final prayer. With her death at the age of sixty-eight, the Quinnipiacs disappeared from this immediate region.

The melancholy story of Nepaupuck is illustrative of the effect upon the red man of the white man's occupancy of his lands. Nepaupuck, the only person ever executed upon the New Haven Green, was put to death in 1638, charged with the murder of a number of white men. His head was cut off and set on a pole in the public marketplace. The Indians never understood the ways of the white man. They had a culture of their own, they pursued with wholehearted devotion the ideals of bravery, protection of family and tribe, loyalty, patriotism, calm and courage, and notably a silent and stoic endurance of physical pain. With a remarkable dignity, when he heard his death sentence, Nepaupuck said simply, "It is well." Was his red skin the reason that it was not deemed commendable for him to fight for his land and his people?

Arrowheads have been found in reasonable numbers in the soil of Hamden, telling only that these common and necessary implements were used in hunting food.

* *The Quinnipiac Indians.*

It is good to know that the Indians fought no wars on our land, that no man's blood was shed here in battle by this peaceful tribe of Quinnipiacs who were our town's original residents, and whose great regard for our Blue Hills Sleeping Giant surpassed our own, actually amounting to awe and veneration.

THE BEGINNINGS OF NEW HAVEN

For a century and a half before Hamden became a separate town it formed a part of New Haven. The prominent men among the New Haven colonists who influenced the early history of Hamden bore names which it is well to remember: Eaton, Davenport, Turner, Gilbert, Yale, Mansfield, Newman, Miles, Todd, Tuttle, Atwater, Potter, Munson, Woodin, Pardee, Warner, Dorman, Sackett, Dickerman, Wilmot, and Ives. Names of our worthy peers are these, equals who typified the common rank of all in a community of civil brothers. We think how "such a one was strong, and such a one was bold, and such was fortunate,"* and as townsmen we can be proud of our inherited belief in civil and religious liberty, good government, and the enlargement of the minds and hearts of men—ideals which they undauntedly pursued, sometimes under great hardships, throughout the history of the town.

The New Haven colonists kept their first Sabbath on April 18, 1638. They heard a sermon delivered by their leader, Reverend John Davenport, under a spreading oak. Oak trees are an important and appropriate historic symbol in Connecticut.

On June 4, 1639, all the free planters convened in Robert Newman's large barn to lay with due solemnity

* Robert Browning, *Childe Roland*.

the foundations of their civil and religious life. This was done after a day of fasting and prayer. Mr. Davenport began the meeting with a sermon from the text, "Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars." In the "Planters Covenant," which 111 persons signed, civil and church matters were to be ordered by rules taken from the Scriptures, "settling civil government according to God."

The men chosen to act as the Seven Pillars—Theophilus Eaton, John Davenport, Robert Newman, Matthew Gilbert, Thomas Fugill, John Punderson, and Jeremiah Dixon—were entrusted with all the powers and responsibilities attendant upon the government of the Colony. On October 25, 1639, they first convened in their function as "the Court."

One of the earliest responsibilities of the new government was the allotment of lands and the laying out of highways. It was the custom in England to set aside common land on which cattle could be pastured, firewood gathered and garden stuff raised. The colonists established a similar plan, except that the land was actually owned by the proprietors and held by them in an undivided use. The pasturelands far out from the town were used in common by all who had livestock, and the Green, or marketplace, in the center of New Haven also was used in common. Similarly the first ground laid under cultivation, in "the Neck" (the name given to the land between Mill River and the Quinnipiac, now Fair Haven), which was probably first tilled by the Indians, was let out to a number of the colonists, at first for a period of seven years. Cattle were pastured in the Neck, but more of them were cared for in the cow pasture lying east of Beaver Ponds, and in the ox pasture on the west side of it. Before long the ox pasture

was cleared of timber and cut up into small cultivated strips, and a new one was opened beside Pine Rock.

Whenever a distribution of land was to be made, either because an individual asked for a town lot or farm or perhaps a road was to be laid out, a committee was appointed to "view" the property and make a report to the town. Such committeemen had to be practical in estimating the value of uncleared land, the cost and trouble of removing stumps and large stones, and of widening foot paths for the passage of ox teams. They had nevertheless enjoyed cultural advantages back in England; they were men of vision who had chosen this place in which to build an ideal community; and, wearisome and difficult as the practical labor might be, their goal was always in their minds. As they worked, they did not fail to appreciate the unspoiled beauties of the majestic forest trees, the sparkling brooks, the song of the birds; and they dreamed of the rich and prosperous future which they were establishing.

When the colonists entrusted the surveyor John Brockett with the task of laying out the meets and bounds of their town plat, they had in mind a large and beautiful city, and they placed a central square, with eight others around it. Here the dwelling houses clustered about the church, and within a radius of two miles out in all directions from this focal point was the land which was used for the immediate needs of the settlers. Drawn on the map today, this circle takes in City Point, the edge of West Haven, and the west side of Edgewood Park, Beaver Ponds, and St. John the Baptist Church; approaches Mill Rock, bisects East Rock, and encloses Fair Haven to the Quinnipiac.

There were nine general distributions, or "Divisions," of farming lands. The First Division, in 1640,

was of land within the two-mile limit, and was soon followed by the Second Division, of lands stretching farther out from the center. The Third Division was made in 1680, and succeeding ones came in 1704, 1710, 1726, 1737, 1753, and 1760. On the whole the allotments in them were small; only men of considerable property were large landholders. Allotments were based on the size of the immediate family as well as on the amount of property owned. The table on page 18 shows the size of family and the first holdings of the more prominent colonists who affected Hamden's history, and most of their holdings were located within the present limits of Hamden.

Almost all the holdings here listed were along the East or Quinnipiac River; and it was in that region that Hamden lands were first cultivated.

One of the most important institutions in the Colony was the mill, to which every family must take its corn to be ground. In 1640, Sergeant William Fowler constructed the grist mill at what is now Lake Whitney dam, and from it Mill River and the Mill Meadows received their names.

THE EAST RIVER FARMS

In the first allotment of farming lands the leading men of the Colony were permitted to select for themselves large portions along the banks of the Quinnipiac River, far out from the center. John Davenport made his selection on the east bank, more than a mile square. It was tilled for him by Alling Ball, who was excused from military service so that he could take care of it. Governor Eaton took for his portion a large tract on the west side of the river, in what is now North Haven. In

<i>Names of the Planters</i>	<i>Persons Numbered</i>	<i>Estates Pounds</i>	<i>First Div.</i>	<i>Land Holdings, Acres</i>			18
				<i>Neck</i>	<i>Meadow</i>	<i>Second Div.</i>	
Th. Eaton	6	3,000	165	33	153	612	
David Yale	1	300	17	3	15	62	
W. Tuttle	7	450	37	7	26	107	
Capt. Turner	7	800	57	11	43	174	
Richard Perry	3	260	20	20	14	58	
J. Davenport	3	1,000	57	11	51	206	
M. Gilbert	2	600	35	7	31	124	
Jasper Crane	3	480	16	21	25	20	
Matthew Rowe	6	1,000	65	13	53	212	
R. Mansfield	4	400	30	6	22	88	
R. Miles	7	400	37	7	23	94	
R. Platt	4	200	20	4	12	48	
Will Potter	4	40	12	26	4	16	
Thomas Yale	2	100	10	2	6	24	
John Punderson	2	180	14	34	10	40	
John Johnson	5	150	20	4	10	40	
John Evance	1	500	27	5	25	102	
Francis Newman	2	160	13	18	9	36	
David Atwater	1	500			24	141	
Robert Newman	2	700	40	8	36	144	
Richard Beckley	4	20	11	34	3	12	
Francis Brewster	9	1,000	35	7	54	263	

1659 this farm came into the possession of Eaton's stepson, Thomas Yale, whose brother David (father of Elihu), was also a landholder. Thomas Yale, 2d, settled in Wallingford and was prominent in the early days of that town, the beginnings of which probably came through a petition which included the names of two Mansfields, Isaac Whitehead, and Jonathan Tuttle in 1662, asking for grants of land above Mr. Yale's.

Jonathan Tuttle, son of William who came to New Haven in 1639, was one of the Wallingford "covenanters." According to the *North Haven Annals*, he located on the Quinnipiac in 1670 and built a bridge across the river, at which he was allowed to take toll. It is hard to imagine any great revenue accruing to him from the fees collected for crossing his bridge in so sparsely settled a neighborhood. In 1683 he offered to exchange his Third Division land for some nearer the Blue Hills. His grandson Nathaniel, born in 1714, married in the 1730's and his eight children were born in Mount Carmel.

A prominent landowner in that region was William Jones, Governor Eaton's son-in-law. He was granted 150 acres in 1668 between the crossing and the foot of the Blue Hills. He came over from England in the same ship with the Regicides, sheltered them in his house in New Haven, and led them from the mill to Judges' Cave. He had a natural sympathy for them, as his father had been put to death for the same reasons that they were now being hunted.

Governor Eaton was buried on the New Haven Green in 1657, the General Court providing a "comely" altar tomb as a memorial to him. This was moved in later years to the Grove Street Cemetery; and in 1938 the Eaton Cenotaph was unveiled directly back of Cen-

ter Church. This monument was designed by the Hamden architect, J. Frederick Kelly. The words engraved to his memory are the same on both stones:

Eaton, so famed, so wise, so just,
The Phoenix of our world, here lies his dust,
This name forget, New England never must.

Captain Turner, the commander of the Colony's military forces, free to choose a farm where he liked, took over a tract just north of East Rock, extending from Mill River to the Quinnipiac. North of the Turner land were the farms selected by Matthew Gilbert and Robert Newman. North of these two farms, yet to the south of Governor Eaton's holdings, were farms distributed in the allotment of lands, belonging to John Punderson, Richard Miles, Francis Brewster, and Richard Mansfield.

These earliest landholders were not settlers at the beginning, and it is not certain when the farms were actually occupied. David Atwater was probably the earliest to live on the land, and he may have been Hamden's earliest settler. His farm included East Rock and the surrounding region between the two rivers. He appears to have been on the ground by 1645, although he also possessed a houselot in town and may have lived for part of the year on each place. He first built on the Neck Lane (now State Street) next to Captain Turner, but later removed to Cedar Hill. A hundred years ago members of the Atwater family occupied all the farms along State Street for a distance of two miles.

The servants of Captain Turner and Governor Eaton may have been living on the farms as early as 1645. By 1648 Vangoodenhausen and Mansfield were occupy-

ing their farmhouses a part of each year. In the same year, 1648, houses were built along the Quinnipiac River by Richard Miles, Francis Newman, and Sergeant Richard Beckley. Francis Brewster went down with the Phantom Ship, and his farm east of the river became Alling Ball's; the one on the west bank went to William Bradley, who had been an officer in Oliver Cromwell's army. Mr. Bradley moved to his farm about 1649, and is accounted the first inhabitant of North Haven.

William Potter acquired land along the Quinnipiac River in 1647, and four years later he purchased the farmhouse of Robert Newman. The Matthew Gilbert place was sold off in part to Richard Newman and William Bassett in 1661. Bassett's sons John and Samuel later had homes in the neighborhood of the Mill Pond.

There were other servants besides Alling Ball to acquire farms on the east side. Henry Hummerston, who had worked for Captain Turner, settled there in 1662 between the farms of Miles and Mansfield. That neighborhood became known as the "Little Quarter."

Most of the lands between the Mill and Quinnipiac Rivers had been conveyed to individual ownership by 1680, and dwelling houses dotted the sides of State Street (known at that time as Neck Lane). The sons, sons-in-law, and servants of the leading families of the Colony had made their homes there. Their sons and daughters intermarried, and gradually the old distinctions between master and servant came to an end.

SETTLERS ON THE HAMDEN PLAINS

The earliest allotments on the west side of town were made to Adam Nicholls, John Thompson, William Davis, Richard Newman, Thomas Mitchell, Thomas

Morris, Robert Pigg, Francis Browne, Thomas Beaumont, John Vincent, Will Russell, Christopher Todd, Thomas Munson, Benjamin Wilmot, and others; and a tract was reserved for "a brickmaker." On November 29, 1641, it was provided that owners of land on the east side of the Quinnipiac might exchange their holdings for land at the farther end of the "Great Plain" on the western side, at the rate of six acres for a single man, eight for a couple, and an acre additional for each child. At the same time Browne, Morris, Russell, Beaumont, Pigg, Davis, and two others, John Wilforde and Abraham Smith asked for land at the Plains, and a committee of four—Nicholls, Munson, and Robert and Francis Newman—were appointed "to view the common way to the Plains." In 1644 similar committees were "viewing" Beaver Meadows and Pine Rock Meadows.

The probable reason for the landowners being sent out to the "farther end" of the Plain was the necessity of conserving pasture and timber lands nearer the center. The ox pasture and cow pasture were in between, and at one time the former comprised 460 acres. A tract of 20 acres was set aside in 1645 for pasturing strangers' horses, and was granted to William Andrews, who was the Colony's leading carpenter. He built the Newman barn in which the colonists met to set up their form of government.

At the foot of West Rock in 1647 was a tract of 24 acres which had belonged to Thomas Fugill and which contained beds of clay suitable for brick-making; and in that year Benjamin Wilmot made application for the land, promising to build a house near-by on the lot which he already owned. This may have been the house

where William Wilmot, son of Benjamin, was living with his mother four years later when he asked to be excused from standing the town watch.

In 1644 Nehemiah Smith came to New Haven from Stratford and asked for 40 acres of upland and 10 of meadow by Oyster River for the raising of sheep. So much objection was made by his neighbors that the town authorities arranged for him to transfer his flock to the Neck. When he was asked to care for all the sheep of the town, he said that he wished to raise only his own; yet in 1649 he agreed to satisfy them, asking for land near the brook which flowed above the Plains beyond the Sequestered Lands. (These were lands that had not been especially desired for private holdings in the earlier divisions.) From his occupancy of the place, which was in the neighborhood of the southern end of the present Hamden Meadowbrook Country Club, the name of "Shepherd's Pen" became attached to the spot, and the stream became "Shepherd's Brook." Nehemiah Smith removed to New London in 1652. The physical hardships which he endured were many in wild, bleak, lonely territory, and with a constant struggle against the depredations of wolves.

Most prominent among the settlers on the Plains were the Sacketts, the Woodins, the Wilmots, and the Dormans. John Sackett, to whom George Sherwood Dickerman refers as "the pioneer," is believed to have come over from England at the age of three with his father, in the same ship which bore Roger Williams. He became the servant of Mrs. Abraham Stolyon, who owned a small shop, and he was once haled into court for having spoken disrespectfully of her. He went to law on two occasions, once to collect for some repairs to

a dwelling house, and again for his services in curing a neighbor's horse of the distemper. He was on the Plains about 1650.

William Woodin had been Captain Turner's servant at his farm on the Quinnipiac River. He must have been a harumscarum youth, for in 1643 he and eight others were fined for raising a disturbance at the prison, and a few years later he was accused of selling off Mr. Vangoodenhausen's hay and starving his cattle. However, he settled down to a sober and responsible life when he took to himself a wife and bought of William Davis his house and fourteen acres at the farther end of the Plains, between the homes of Adam Nicholls and Robert Pigg. In 1656 he acquired six acres more, and three years later was granted an acre and a half, with the understanding that he must make room for a road to Pine Rock where stones, timber, and firewood could be obtained; this he evidently did, for in 1671 there was a highway through Dorman's and Sackett's lands, which lay beyond his property toward Pine Rock; and he had also built another house.

In 1649 Ralph Dayton bought a piece of ground and made his home on the Plains for several years, and then transferred his property to Philip Leek, who passed it on to William Wilmot in 1668. This land was close by the Pine Rock ox pasture.

Edmund Dorman in 1668 bought the Robert Foote house which was built in 1659, and the property was described as consisting of "forty-nine acres, east of the Carpath which ran through the middle of the Plains (the present Dixwell Avenue); sixteen acres, west of the Carpath, north of Sackett's; nine acres, Sackett on the north, William Woodin on the south, the Carpath on the east, and the common on the west." The town

for reasons of its own denied his request for three acres of swamp land.

A neighbor, in 1662, carelessly remarked that he had seen Dorman in the woods praying aloud for a wife, but he had reason to regret his disclosure, for Dorman promptly sued him for slander. Records show that Dorman was married within that year. Perhaps he did not wish the public to think that prayer had had anything to do with his finding of a mate.

Isaac Beecher acquired land on the Plains in 1652, and the adjoining property owners were Pigg, Sackett, Munson, Dayton, Bristow, and Russell. Matthew Rowe, the miller, owned a house just above Beaver Ponds. Although there still was much common land in this area, small individual grants were made about Beaver Ponds and, a little later, at Pine Rock.

The early settlers on the Plains were forced to go out some distance to establish their properties, because the ox and the cow pastures contained undivided lands beyond which they must go. The fact that the leading men of the Colony staked their claims on the east side makes it appear that that land was considered more desirable than the Plains.

In March, 1663, Matthew Gilbert asked for a tract above Shepherd's Pen, "because he was willing to try to rayse some food for his horses in winter to wont them there." He was granted forty acres for this purpose, and he set up a farm noted for the fine horses which he bred. In time he enlarged the size of his property, and attracted other settlers to build near him. The name of the locality soon changed from having been called "Shepherd's Pen" to "Gilbert's Farms," for the Gilberts came to stay and to establish a permanent home, whereas Nehemiah Smith, driven out of the

first two places where he had attempted to raise sheep, had come out here to the wilderness not so much because he wanted to make it his home as that there was nowhere else that he could go with his sheep. He became discouraged in a few years and gave up his venture. Not so the Gilberts who lived there for many generations.

Gilbert was one of the foremost men in the Colony, being deacon, assistant magistrate, and deputy governor. Third Division allotments in this section came into his hands, and in his will his heirs received land on the Plains, on Mill Lane, and in the "Little Quarter."

A simple gravestone in the rear of Center Church on the New Haven Green, the church in which Matthew Gilbert was one of the original Seven Pillars, bears the letters "M.G. 80." Many believe that this marks the spot where he was buried, although there has been much dispute about it among antiquarians. In any case he died in 1680, and this burying ground was used by his family.

EARLY ROADS

As long as New Haven remained practically isolated from the other towns in Connecticut, roads were for the convenience of the local population in driving the cattle to and from pasture, journeying to the farms, and going out for timber, stones, and clay.

Mill Lane, running from the center of New Haven to the site of the mill, has in part become Orange Street. For a number of years the town granted to one man the exclusive hauling privileges to and from the mill, except for those who hauled their own grist. Very early a way was opened from the upper end of this mill road through land belonging to Mr. Davenport, to the clay pits along the Quinnipiac River.

The main route to the Plains, popularly known as the Cartpath, began at Broadway in New Haven and followed the present Goffe Street to Orchard, then by way of Orchard to the present Dixwell Avenue, to Shepherd's Brook and beyond. Along this lane were the homes of Sackett, Woodin, and Dorman.

The road which has become Whalley Avenue led to the ox pasture and to the clay pits at the foot of West Rock. It may have been the road by which cattle were first detoured alongside the ox pasture to grazing lands beyond, so as to keep them from passing through the settled districts.

In 1686, forty-eight years after the original settlers arrived in New Haven, attention was given in the town records to all the highways, including a description of them. By then it was realized that, in addition to their own local roads, there should be some link with other towns. There had been several trunk routes used by the Indians, the principal one following the shore from New York to Boston. Out of New Haven went three other routes: one to Middletown, Wethersfield, and Hartford; another to Farmington, Simsbury, and Westfield, by which the Quinnipiacs journeyed to and from the Tunxis at Farmington; and one through the forest to Hartford. Undoubtedly the colonists made use of these trails before they began to construct their own, and in general their roads followed the same routes. The one to Hartford by way of Middletown had been a heavily beaten track from its use by Indians carrying great quantities of fur pelts to the trading post on the Connecticut River.

The road to Farmington (which became a town in 1645) followed the familiar Dixwell Avenue path to Shepherd's Brook, "and so on to the end of our bounds,"

six rods wide. The mill road went on past the Mill Quarter and the Little Quarter, two rods wide. In the Neck was a road four rods wide, from the ferry to East Rock, and around it to Mill Meadows. A road ran from Henry Beecher's shop through Cooper's Quarter (named from John Cooper, the viewer of fences) into the Plains. Another led from it up the hill between Moses Mansfield and Thomas Mix, to the common at the two-mile end. Another way led through the ox pasture to William Wilmot's, and onward to Pine and West Rocks and the common, for bringing out timber, firewood, and stone. A lane went from the Plains through Sackett's and Dorman's to the commons behind Dorman's, and another to the woods behind Sackett's. Still another highway went from Mr. Yale's, which was east of Mill River, past Joseph Bradley's westward to Mill River. One extended from Bradley's to the northeast end of Nicholas Street's farm in Wallingford, and from there the road ran through the lots facing on the Quinnipiac River to the Blue Hills. A final road ran from the Country Road at Richard Newman's house to a way between Yale's farm and that of Street.

The less important roads went through the farms, and travelers had to stop at the boundary fences and take down the bars and set them up again. Passage was extremely difficult for the herds, and regulations provided for their passage along the side lanes.

AGRICULTURE

The colonists, in spite of all their original plans to become a commercial town, were forced to depend upon agriculture for their living. They were not skilled in this work, nor was the soil particularly good for the

purpose. There appears to have been a scarcity of both tillable and grazing lands, and great care was necessary for the protection of growing corn from the inroads of cattle and swine, and the livestock in turn needed protection from wolves.

Beginning in 1639, the town offered a bounty of 15 s. on wolves and 2 s. 6 d. on foxes. In 1650 the Indians were paid 5 s. for each wolf's head, without inquiry as to where it had been killed. The town hired Sergeant Richard Beckley to kill wolves, and was willing to pay 15 s. and even more if necessary. Beckley and Sergeant Fowler were allowed to set traps at night, and if a sow happened accidentally to be caught, the town would pay the damage. Beckley also might dig a pit and receive 30 s. for each wolf caught and brought to town alive.

In 1656 John Sackett was paid 10 s. for a wolf caught in a pit. The next year the "great black wolfe of a more than ordinarie bigness, which is like to be more fierce and bould than the rest and so occasions the more hurt," was deemed to be so great a danger that £5 was offered for his hide.

One of the earliest measures taken to provide pasture for the herds was that of burning off the woods each spring. Beginning in 1642, March 10 was the date set for this purpose, later changed to March 1. In 1644 Goodman Dayton was ordered to burn the Plains. In 1667 there is a reference in the Colony records to the burning of the "walkes" of the herds, which would seem to be the routes taken by them to and from the town:

The owners of the severall herds of cowes with the farmers shall burne the walkes of the dry cattle behinde the herds walkes as followeth—Goodman Willmote and John Sackett upon West Rock and up-

wards; other herdsmen from West Rock to Mill Rock, as high as the Shepherd's Pen; farmers on the west side of East [Quinnipiac] River to the Blue Mountains.

The assignment of the routes the cattle must take in going to and from pasture may have been made to provide for the protection of crops and pastures of the farmers, and also for removing the cattle—at one time there were four herds, of sixty each—from the traveled roads. In 1668, the farmers' herds were not to feed on the "walke" of the town herds, and the cattle in the town were to be kept in the yards at night. Much trouble was occasioned by the mingling of the farmers' herds with those from the town, and John Sackett had a bull with the annoying habit of following people.

Much more damage to crops was caused by hogs than by cattle. In 1641 it was ordered that swine without a keeper must be pastured five miles distant from the center, and in succeeding years the limit was set at eight, ten, or twelve miles. In 1645 Captain Turner, when about to leave on the Great Ship, reported that much damage had been done to his corn and meadows by hogs; gates were left open, which David Atwater should have closed. He complained that oxen and cattle were driven out toward his farm, and consequently his own cows were in need of food. In 1651 each family was limited to six swine, three large and three small, pigs under two months not counted.

For the further protection of the crops, fence viewers were appointed, beginning in 1644, when Francis Browne and John Vincent were selected to view the Plains. For a number of years John Cooper acted as inspector of fences for the whole settlement, and fines

were levied against those whose fences were down. Again and again the records show that the fence viewers did not perform their duties. Theirs was an impossible task, as the fences could not be made tight and kept tight. Complaints of damage to crops continued, and though some fines were levied, almost every settler was involved, and farmers chosen to be viewers were too busy to keep up their surveys. Later on, when grain was raised in greater quantity, haywards, or pounders, were chosen to round up the wandering stock. One record of haywards' duties said they were "to haunt forth hogs." The scarcity of good grazing land was indicated by the restrictions placed upon the number of animals each person was allowed to pasture in the Neck or the cow and ox pastures. When the new ox pasture was opened beside Pine Rock in 1654, it needed 400 rods of fence. Benjamin Wilmot offered to build 60 rods of it, because he had four cows and two oxen to pasture in it. The old ox pasture, which measured 460 acres, was being cleared of timber in return for the right to cultivate the 58 acres already cleared. Sixty acres of it were deemed necessary for highways.

Because the colonists had an ideal in their minds when they established their settlement here, the individuals' interests were always considered secondary to the needs of the commonwealth. A man was forbidden to buy property for himself of any individual, unless the town gave its approval; his use of timber was carefully watched so that no harm should be done to the common interest. If he wanted a small additional strip of land to enlarge his yard, or a plot near him for a married son, it was necessary first for the town meeting to consider the matter and render final decision, and

committees appointed to deliberate such requests often took plenty of time doing it.

It was not only for the best interests of the community that commons were used for pasturage, timber, and the raising of crops, but there was a saving of fencing and of labor to the individual as well. As in any pioneer life, to achieve a foothold in a new world and establish there a settlement of white men was an undertaking in which the settlers could not hope to survive unless they maintained a coöperative society, where much was shared by all. Neighbors helped each other whenever they could. Thus in 1650 Thomas Mitchell, in complaining of the fences at the Plains, offered to view them himself, and John Sackett promised to help him.

An example of the dictatorial powers exercised by the town was its refusal to allow four men, John Wakefield, once the miller, John Thomas, Thomas Lamson, and Peter Mallory, to have twelve acres above Shepherd's Pen on which to raise tobacco. This was in 1654. Another example came twenty-five years later, when in making plans for the Third Division of lands it was ordered that no one should settle upon them without permission from the town.

The principal problem of settlements far out from the center was the compulsory attendance required at church services. Settlers at a distance from the village experienced much difficulty in getting to and from them, and when in 1658 petitions were offered for the formation of two separate villages (Fair Haven and East Haven), this Sabbath inconvenience was the basic argument in their plea. Mr. Davenport, who favored the new centers, said that with farmers at such a distance, not all dwellings could keep the Sabbath as a holy

convocation and day of rest. He believed that if villages were formed, there would be officers to maintain order and teach the children, a practice which came by 1676 when Colony records noted that "men are going about to see that children are taught to read the Bible."

Mr. Davenport deplored the fact that farmers from far out left the church before services were over, and some of the townspeople were following their example. In the early days the farmers stayed all day Sunday in town, and Sabba-day houses were built on the Green—tiny buildings about twelve feet square, containing huge fireplaces where worshipers could warm and refresh themselves before the afternoon service. Two of these shelters were said to have been used by "farmers from the most northerly farms."*

"Warnings" with the beating of a drum for town meetings, where attendance of the "admitted inhabitants" was required, were in 1685 done in all directions from the center, as far out as the farms of Samuel Todd, Joseph Alsop, Mark Fowler, and James Heaton. A few years later, David Atwater, Sr., was "warning" those living beyond him, and Edmund Dorman, his neighbors. The farmers complained that the town meetings, beginning early in the afternoon, lasted too long, so it was voted that no business be transacted after sunset, although this rule was not always adhered to.

A regulation was made in 1667 that cattle should not cross the Mill River from the east, on the way to pasture, until above Shepherd's Brook; in 1673, not until they reached the brook coming out of the fresh water meadows. There was a fine of sixpence for each cow violating the rule.

* Barber and Punderson, *Antiquities of New Haven*.

The question of proper protection of property had been cared for in the early days by groups of men standing watch in turn. In 1645, the question rose as to whether men, whose houses were a mile from town, should be asked to stand watch. In 1648, they decided that those who lived on the farms, unless they watched on their farms, must help the town watch. This is one more illustration of the individual's subordination to the town, which made the decision as to who should stand watch and when; what crops to raise; when land could be purchased; and who should burn the woods and walks; how much cattle could be owned by each farmer, specifying where the cattle should go; and how much each man must work on the roads and help to repair the mill.

In 1675 came the threat of war occasioned by the raids of the Indians north of the Colony, led by King Philip. A committee was appointed to fortify the town. They ordered all brush cut within the town and within a half mile of the stockade; and farmers were to clear the highways and the borders in company with their neighbors. They found that one hundred loads of wood were necessary for each of two of the Quarters, to strengthen the stockade. Each farmer was ordered to donate a load, and those without teams to assist the others. The danger was soon past, and the colonists' fears subsided. A member of one of Hamden's oldest families, John Bassett, whose death was recorded in 1713, took part in the Great Swamp Fight with the Narragansetts in December, 1675, as lieutenant, and afterward as captain.

When the Third Division of land was made in 1680, the town did not allow settlers to go into it. A part of

it started with the ridge above East Rock, followed up the Quinnipiac River to the Blue Hills, then down by Mill River. Landowners were urged at this time to examine their titles, establish their boundary lines, and make record with the town clerk—this sometimes being a difficult thing to do because of the haziness of proof about the original grant. Robert Foote on the Plains, instead of bothering about a title, made record, “having been in quiet possession for a number of years, according to law,” and sold the property the next day to Edmund Dorman. When Nathaniel Thorp was given six acres above Pine Rock, he was told not to settle there, because “it lies on the path.”

In 1695 much more land was desired by farmers who wished to raise corn. Captain Moses Mansfield was granted land for this purpose east of Pine Rock for a period of eight years, after which it would revert to the town. He was to fence it with its own timber. The two Bassetts and Joseph Bradley were given a seven-year privilege to raise corn on forty acres near the Town Farm. The increasing acreage under cultivation necessitated greater vigilance on the part of the haywards, or pounders. In 1705 John and Samuel Bassett and Nathaniel Bradley built a pound near Ebenezer Blackley's, entrusting him with the key. The blackbirds were considered such a nuisance that in 1708 every male person between the ages of sixteen and seventy was ordered to kill at least a dozen during the year, with a reward of a penny for each one killed over the dozen, and a penalty of a penny for each one under the dozen. Perhaps for the same reason, protection of the crops—the owners of doves, which were deemed “more hurtful than profitable,” were asked in 1731 to destroy them. Much

later, in 1752, crows were the pest. A reward of a shilling was offered for the old ones, and sixpence for the young. The next year the bounty for old crows was raised to 5 s. but in 1756 it was down to 3 d.

The town was somewhat godlike, in that it did not always chide and forbid, but often held out a helping hand to those in trouble. In 1685 Samuel Whitehead was given land on Mill River beside Matthew Gilbert's, and also some nearer the Blue Hills, as a gift from the town when he lost everything in a fire.

INDUSTRIES

Bricks were made in both the eastern and western parts of the town from the earliest years. The clay pits on the Quinnipiac, although within the farms of Eaton and Gilbert, appear to have been open to everyone, and a lane to them from Mill Lane was opened through Mr. Davenport's property.

In 1651 John Benham informed the Court that "when this plantation first began, he was by the authority then settled here, sent forth to looke for Claye to make bricke, wherein he spent as much time as was now worth twenty shillings, wch he thinks the Towne should allow him."* The place where he found suitable clay was "within the compass of Mr. Eaton's farm," near the Quinnipiac River. In this locality, on the eastern side of the town, the brick industry has been continuous from the beginning.

In the first allotment of lands on the west side of the town, a claim was reserved for a "brickmaker." In 1645 Edward Chipfield was permitted to make bricks

* New Haven Colony records.

in the Plains under West Rock, to which there was a good highway. A little later Goodman Wilmot asked for the privilege of using these same clay pits.

THE MILL

In the industry of prime importance—the grist mill—either the miller was unable to operate at a profit, or the town authorities felt that it should be a publicly owned project, for a town meeting debated the question of taking over the property, and decided that “provided they grind both Indian and English corne well, no other mill shall be permitted.” This monopoly rule was in effect for fifty years. John Wakefield is the earliest miller named, and John Lovell the next. There is no record of how well or ill he ground the corn; it was recorded only that “John Lovell, the miller, for sinful dalliance with the little wench of Goodman Hall, was whipped.” In those days Sin with a capital S was of more concern than bread.

A number of journeymen millers—Wakefield, Lovell, George Larimore, William James, Thomas Mitchell, Matthew Rowe, and Deacon Miles were employed to operate the mill, until the owners—Thomas Yale, acting for the Eaton estate, and Sergeant William Fowler—sold it to the town for £100 in 1659.

For some time the mill had been in need of repairs; complaints of bad grinding were frequent, and the stones were said to be worn out. Unsuccessful attempts were made to provide a new mill nearer the center of the town, plans for which were begun when a dam was built at Beaver Ponds and a channel run through the town. In order to provide an ample supply of water

it would have been necessary to lead the brook behind John Sackett's, known as Sackett's Brook, into Beaver Ponds. An inspector reported the dam good, but the great trench not deep enough. He said that a penstock, or pipe, to lead the water to the millwheel would be necessary. When the colonists realized that much more digging was required than had been planned, the project was abandoned, and in 1659 the town voted instead to repair the old mill.

A historic incident occurred at the mill in 1661 when it became a shelter for the Regicides, Whalley and Goffe, in their flight from their pursuers. They went there when they found themselves to be no longer safe in New Haven center, arriving on Saturday, May 11, and leaving on Monday, probably timing their arrival and departure so as to miss being seen by the customers of the mill. William Jones took them into the near-by woods for two days, and then to Judges' Cave where they stayed until June 11.

When the General Court met on December 1, 1662, nothing was said about the mill, but a special meeting was called two days later because the mill had burned. Only the nails and some iron tools were salvaged. This was a major loss to the community, because the grain must now, at great inconvenience, be taken to Milford for grinding. Three years afterward, in 1665, an agreement was at last completed in which William Bradley and Christopher Todd took over the local mill property and the responsibility of maintaining a miller, building a new mill, and guaranteeing satisfactory grinding. The town promised, as its part of the bargain, to give the partners land on the south side of Mill Rock that belonged with the mill, twenty acres north of it for the miller to live on, the right to take timber from town

land to rebuild the dam, a reaffirmation that no other mill could be built in competition, and a continuance of the authority, first granted in 1645, to impress men to repair the mill. A toll of two quarts of grain might be taken by the miller for every bushel that he ground; and if things were satisfactory, the sum of one-half rate (a voluntary tax) could be asked from the inhabitants. These guarantees seem to indicate that after three years of going to Milford for grinding, the colonists were in a frame of mind to be generous to their own millers. The house which William Bradley erected south of the mill, and in which he lived, remained standing until it was in recent years torn down by the Water Company. It was for a long while occupied by a printer, supposed to have been a man, but discovered to be a woman at the time of her death. She had always worn men's clothing, and appeared little in public.

Christopher Todd acquired the control of the mill in 1671, and thereafter it was known as "Todd's Mill." His request for permission to turn one of the mills into a breast mill was granted, along with £70 to move the mill nearer the Rock. Care was taken to leave the way open for the herds, and for passage to East Rock for stones, wood, and clay.

In 1674 the mill burned again, and the stones were ruined. Todd asked for more land between the river and the Rock. Instead of giving it to him, the town set aside five other near-by acres for him, indicating that the timber from it was to be used in rebuilding the mill. Perhaps this accomplished all that Todd wanted in the interests of the mill, anyway.

Difficulties of several kinds plagued the miller. At times there was not enough water, and Todd suggested that people bring their corn when the water was high,

appealing also to the men of the town to give two days' labor to raise the height of the dam. To insure that all comers would be taken care of, it was ruled that they be taken in their turn, one-half bushel to a small family, a bushel and a half to a large family, and to prevent disorder in the waiting of turns, the miller himself should set the grain on the mill platform.

The sudden rise in the production of corn in 1695 and thereafter added to the difficulties of the mill, which already was crowded to its capacity. The three sons of Christopher Todd—John, Samuel, and Michael—were given a new contract by the town in 1695; but this failed to include the old protective clause safeguarding them from competition by any other mill. This was a deliberate omission. The year before, Captain Moses Mansfield had proposed a new mill at Beaver Ponds, and close to him in the scheme was William Bradley's son Abraham. Apparently the father had foreseen the eventual need of such a mill, for he had purchased seventeen acres in that neighborhood. Permission to build a new mill was given to Abraham Bradley simultaneously with the making of the new contract with the Todds. Daniel Hopkins was a partner, and the group were also permitted to set up a fulling mill. Only three years later, Isaac Jones was setting up another fulling mill on Wilmot's Brook, midway between the Widow Wilmot's farm and the highway leading to Mansfield's mill.

Abraham Bradley, who carried the title of deacon, was granted the use of the wood within thirty rods of the mill. Along with Thomas Trowbridge in 1699, he erected a bloomery* upon his mill stream, with a build-

* A forge for iron work.

ing for the storage of charcoal. His grist mill, with that of the Todds, was allowed by the town to grind for strangers on Fridays, but they must put up locked buildings for the storage of grain. In 1704, Bradley and Jones together wished to build a fulling mill below the grist mill. By this time the grindings for families were to be one and one-half to three bushels, and "no one was to lose his turn if absent on business."

In rapid succession came Captain Mansfield's saw mill, three miles from town, on the water between Pine and West Rocks called Wilmot's Brook; then John and Samuel Smith's saw mill east of West Rock; and the saw mill of Moses Blacksly and Josiah Todd on Pine Brook, near the Blue Hills, in 1714. In that year, Captain John Munson was permitted to dam the brook by Benjamin Wilmot's and turn the stream. A strange barter transaction took place when Captain Munson was granted three fourths of an acre west of the brook, for a book with three quires of paper!

Other early mills were Joseph Clark's fulling mill on the brook below the saw mill, near the Blue Hills; Benjamin Dorman's saw mill, on the "Second Brook," in 1731; and the mill where Captain Mansfield made linseed oil. He obtained the license from the General Assembly in 1718, giving him the exclusive right to make linseed oil for New Haven County, for a period of twenty years. In 1724 Mansfield took over the Todd Mill, and Isaac Jones and Robert Talmadge set up a fulling mill below it. In 1745 Caleb Ball and others dammed Mill River, near David Munson's land, for a saw mill.

The fulling mills were built to perfect woolen cloth in a way superior to that of homespun loosely woven

material. While it was possible to card, oil, roll, spin, and weave the dyed yarn in hand looms on the farms, the results were often clumsy and shapeless. The fulling mill washed away grease, thickened the material, and shrunk and pressed it into a form which was superior in both looks and wearing quality to the rough homespun.

Captain Munson was a man of more than one interest, for in 1717 the General Assembly of Connecticut granted him, together with his executors, administrators and assigns, the exclusive privilege of transporting persons and goods between New Haven and Hartford, for a period of seven years. There was but one condition, and it was that on the first Monday of the month (December to March excepted) he should, if the weather permitted, drive to Hartford and back within the week. His conveyance was a crude horse-drawn wagon, and he was many years ahead of any other transportation business.

Francis Browne was one of the first to ask for land at the Plains in 1641, and he ran the ferry across the lower end of the Quinnipiac River. His grandson, another Francis Browne, was a ship captain, who made twenty-five voyages between 1707 and 1716.

A study of the records of these voyages, made in 1913 by Franklin Bowditch Dexter, reveals what the colonists exported and imported at the time. They shipped out, for sale in other places

grain, pork, beef, tow cloth, and other products of the farm and of the loom, . . . wheat and flour, Indian corn and rye, with a few oats; large amounts of pork and bacon, beef in much smaller quantities, and a good deal of spring butter; also occasional lots of peas and beans, but no other vegetables [the potato was still

unknown here] . . . honey, beeswax, and bayberry wax or tallow; hazel nuts, butternuts, and chestnuts; once or twice a basket of eggs, and equally rarely a bag of mustard seed and a bushel of oysters. Flax and wool were also furnished to a large extent, both in bulk and manufactured, with the coarser linens and worsted cloths, especially tow cloth, sail cloth, and shoe thread. Barrel and hogshead staves and lumber [in boards] were also occasional exports. . . . Another large item [was] furs, specified in detail as wolf, bear, fox, raccoon, mink, otter, marten, beaver, and cat, that is wild-cat.

Most of the articles which they imported were luxuries, but there were also tools, iron and steel bars, powder and shot, oakum and tar, nails, knives of all kinds, scissors, razors, sheepshears, scythes, grindstones and rubstones, fishhooks, pots and kettles, pans and basins, pewter and earthenware, and implements for weaving. Few rugs were mentioned; a "carpet" was a pall for a burial; other importations were hourglasses, warming pans, mirrors, lanterns and candlesticks, platters and mugs, tumblers for the rich, tongs, shovels, and bellows. Not much tobacco was transported, and tea and coffee are not mentioned; but sugar, molasses, salt, spices and liquors, salad oil, salt mackerel, figs, raisins, and currants, were brought into the Colony.

The amount of commerce possible to the colonists of New Haven was as nothing compared to what they had hoped for. But when necessity had forced them to turn to agriculture, they had grimly learned to tend their fields and cattle, build houses, and make their own clothing. These were the same kind of purposeful people as Bradford wrote of in his *History of Plymouth Plantation*. After enumerating the objections offered

to the proposed migration from England, he said: "It was answered that all great and honorable actions are accompanied with great difficulties, and must be both enterprised and overcome by answerable courages."

Mining was an industry within the Colony at an early date. On the shore of Lake Saltonstall in East Haven, one of the first iron mines in the country was opened, but the output was small. The Blue Hills had figured briefly in a mining mania, first when Mr. Roswell, a surveyor, had laid unfulfilled plans to set up a slate quarry, and later in 1721, when there was a widespread belief that all sorts of mineral wealth existed in the mountain. The town authorities appointed a committee to confer with "those who wished to lease the Blue Hills or other unimpropriated property adjacent," for mining. On this committee were Warham Mather, Captain Joseph Whiting, Samuel Bishop, Ensign Isaac Dickerman, and Sergeant John Gilbert. On September 19, 1721, three men of New York—James and Peter Ferris and Cornelius Kirsted—leased the copper and other mines (excepting iron) in the Blue Hills and hills adjacent. The wood and stone necessary for the mining operations might be taken there, but wood must not be wasted. The rental was to be one twentieth of the ore for fifty years, the lease to cancel if idle two years. The latter was the case, for on March 9, 1723, the leases in the Blue Hills and Ridge Hill were declared void.

In the full flush of the mining excitement, might not some have recalled the old Indian legend of the Giant's pockets being filled with treasure? But no mining of any kind ever has proved profitable there. Whatever copper was found undoubtedly came there through the action of the great glacier which had plowed it out of

veins in the red sandstone regions above and dropped it here on its way southward. Josiah Todd found a 90-pound lump of copper in Mount Carmel; a mass of 200 pounds was discovered on a farm above East Rock; and other smaller lumps came to light near State Street and at the foot of West Rock. John W. Barber, in his *Connecticut Historical Collections* (1838), says:

Mount Carmel lies wholly within Hamden. This is one of the most elevated greenstone eminences in the state. The greenstone of these mountains forms an excellent building stone, and is extensively used in New Haven. In the greenstone hills of this town, various minerals have been discovered. Iron pyrites in minute pieces, and sometimes imperfectly crystallized, is found disseminated; and sulphuret of copper is sometimes found, connected with crystallized quartz. Lead in small quantities has also been found.

Dr. Timothy Dwight's *Statistical Account of New Haven* (1811) says:

Copper is still known to exist in various places in the Hamden Hills, and attempts have been repeatedly made to sink shafts for the purpose of obtaining the copper, but the business has never been prosecuted to effect.

David Tallman mined on Ridge Hill, near Mill River, in the northeastern part of Hamden. An excavation of about fifty feet in depth existed there, and an adit was commenced at the foot of the hill, several hundred feet distant, and carried in toward this shaft for one hundred feet. Later the shaft was lowered and the adit extended to connect with it. But not enough ore was found to cover the cost of taking it out. A mint

which was established in New Haven for coining "coppers" was said to have obtained some of its copper from the Blue Hills.

THE SETTLEMENT OF MOUNT CARMEL

In arranging the Third Division of lands, the authorities attempted to set limits to the migration northward, and stipulated that "no one should go out to live on them in settled dwellings, except by particular approval of the town; as they were too remote for attending worship on the Sabbath and were liable to damage from the heathen." Only slowly were the bounds of the Sequestered Lands moved to the north. In 1673, the boundary was the brook above the Shepherd's Plain, where the path crossed it, and a line from there, west or northwest, to a mile above Sackett's. At the time of the Fourth Division, 1704, the line was drawn a mile and a half above Sackett's, from the elbow of the Shepherd's Brook to West Rock. At this time Lieutenant Abraham Dickerman, John Goodyear, and William Thompson were exchanging lots above the brook. By 1718, the Sequestered Lands were defined as extending from the property of Benjamin Wilmot to Thompson's Gap, or to High Rock [Rocky Top], and including the western half of the Blue Hills also. In 1721 it was decided that the Blue Hills and West Rock should be commons forever, but that brush might be cut on them to permit the pasturing of sheep.

In 1719 there occurs in the town records probably the first allusion to the "Steps." Captain Richard Miles and Joseph Tuttle were granted sixty acres above the Steps, or Blue Hills, east of the old road that went to

Farmington or to Wallingford Farms. The Steps were a natural formation of the Blue Hills trap rock, a sort of terrace, like a flight of stairs. It was possible to climb this flight on foot or on horseback. Cattle could be driven over it in single file. But otherwise it was a definite barrier between those north and south of it. It has been cut through, first by the river, and later by man, when the highway, the canal, and the railroad were built. It is hard to imagine now that such an obstacle once blocked the way just to the south of the Sleeping Giant.

Enos Pardee came to what is now Centerville in 1720, built a house on his sixty-seven acres, and raised a large family. He was himself the oldest in a family of sixteen children. His tombstone stands in the Central Burying Ground. At the same time Thomas Leek built above the Gilbert Farm, and was succeeded by many generations in the ownership of the property. Daniel Sperry settled above the Steps in 1721. The paucity of established boundary lines made it necessary in a sale of land at this time to Samuel Alling on Mill River, on the way to the Gilbert Farm, to describe the property by stating that it was bounded by a young red oak spire, a white oak spire, a bass pole, a maple pole, a chestnut pole growing out of the root of a chestnut tree, a walnut pole, a red oak tree, a heap of stones, and an old white oak tree.

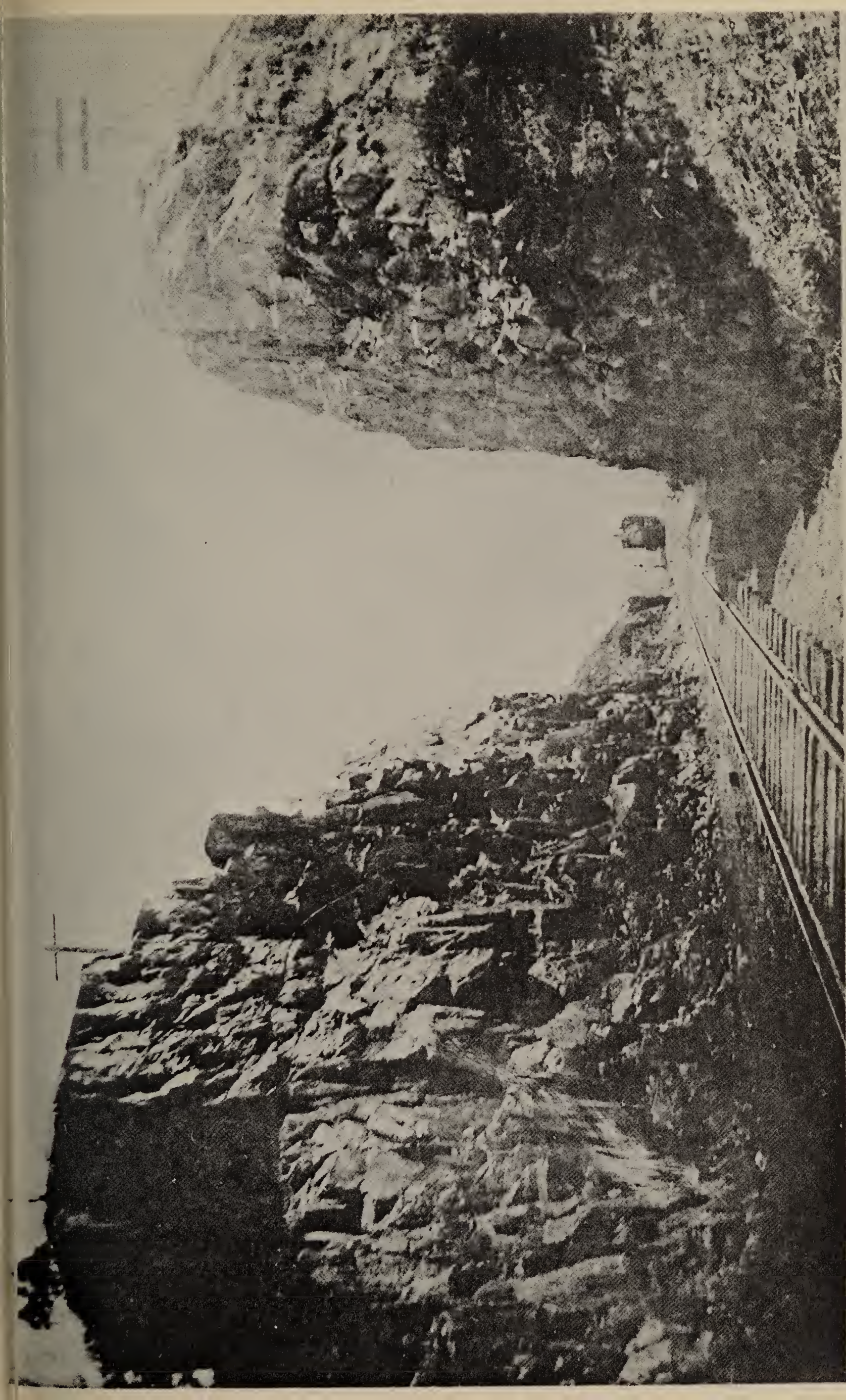
Families were now encouraged to settle farther northward. In 1721 Samuel Peck was granted twenty-five acres south of Goodyear's Third Division land, above Shepherd's Brook. Those whose land had been laid out in the wrong place were given land above Gilbert Farm, up to the Ledges near the Steps.

Benjamin Warner settled in what is now West Woods and started a long line of descendants, in a region once known as "Warnertown." His house was mentioned as a landmark in 1725. Descendant Ebenezer Warner (about 1778) and his wife Ruth had eleven children. One of the boys, Amos, was once asked by a passerby of their home in this lonely, sparsely settled spot, "where is Warnertown?" He replied: "Stranger, you're right in the heart of the city." A verse, often quoted by members of the Warner family, describes in rhyme the roster of the eleven children:

Amos and Easter,
Jonah and Hannah,
Ebenezer and Susannah,
Isaac and Lydie,
(A little she-biddy),
Bet, Ruth and Pat
Caught the bob-tailed rat.

In 1726 Joseph Cooper (whose Fourth Division property was acquired from Abraham Dickerman in 1713 and was located in what was later known as Augerville) public-spiritedly exchanged land so that the Country Road might be improved, giving an acre and a half for an acre. Several others made exchanges in the same ratio, all giving more land than they received. Samuel Alling, John Rowe, Abraham Dickerman, and Joshua Hotchkiss were obtaining land in the same neighborhood. In 1729 Daniel Bradley, 2d, bought Captain Miles's land above the mountain, and his brother Amos and other relatives soon followed him in making their homes there.

Joel Munson, son of Captain John Munson, decided in 1733 to venture out to the swift-flowing Mill River



The Cut in the Mount Carmel Steps



Joel Munson's Mill Flume

Gift of J. Walter Bassett

at the Steps and there set up his own mill. Permission to build a dam across the river was obtained from the town, with whom he entered into an agreement which promised him two acres of land if he would make a "feasible" cartway over the Steps within two years. It took him only one year to fulfill his part of the agreement, and it was indeed a bargain for him, because his grist and saw mill which he had speedily erected had much business to gain from settlers who lived on the north side of the mountain, and who could now drive teams on the "feasible cartway over said Steps," which the committee reported that he had made. It was no easy task to accomplish in so short a time, for without the use of dynamite, then unknown, all the work was done with hand implements.

The name of Jacob Hotchkiss appears in the Proprietor's Records as a lessee of land in this vicinity in 1733. In 1735 a document labeled "*Munson & Hotchkiss Covenant*" was signed. Excerpts from this agreement read:

This indenture made this 9th day of Dec. 1735, WITNESSETH that whereas Joel Munson of the town and county of NH in the Colonie of Ct. in New England, have erected and built a Sawmill on the River called NH Mill River, att or near a place called the Steps in NH aforesaid,

It is agreed between the sd Joel Munson on the one part and Jacob Hotchkiss of sd. NH on the other part, that the sd Munson shall keep and maintain a good and sufficient sawmill . . . at or near the place that the aforesaid mill now standeth as long as said Munson . . . or the Selectmen of the town of NH shall think and judge that a sawmill shall be accounted advantageous & profitable in sd place; and as long as said sawmill shall so remain, I, the sd Munson do bind myself

. . . to saw the one half of said term that the mill can run, for the said Jacob Hotchkiss, att any and all times when he shall have any logs at the sd mill . . . sawing such loggs as the sd Hotchkiss shall direct, either into board, plank, slit oak &c, which by the judgment of two Lawyors (if difference arise) shall be good and merchantable . . .

The said Hotchkiss doth bind himself . . . to Rendor unto the sd Munson, the one half of the load plank, slit work &c that shall be sawed out of loggs that are 12 ft. long and 15 inches Diameter at the smallest end; that did belong to sd Hotchkiss . . ., and for loggs of shorter dimentions as they, (the parties concerned) can agree, or as two indifferent persons may think just, . . .

We have hereunto Interchangeably sett our hands and seals, and do by these presents bind ourselves . . . faithfully to keep and perform every clause and article of the foregoing Covenant and agreement according to the true intent and meaning . . . on the forfeiture of £100 money payable by the party nott complying therewith to the party wronged or suffering thereby, upon demand or upon the breach of any part or articles thereof.

In 1735 Joel Munson's father, Captain John, bought one third of Todd's mill and one third of the bolting mill, dam, and stream, and the rights to the "bake house." Christopher Todd had been, among other things, a baker, and the bake house was probably built by him.

In 1729 Daniel, the son of Abraham Bradley, continued the family tradition as millers by building a saw mill on what is now West Todd Street. Many years later, in 1762, he deeded to his son Joel two acres, "on ye hill west of ye hill where he hath set an orchard."

In 1779 Joel Bradley deeded one half of his saw mill to Joel Munson, the son of Captain John Munson, both already mill builders.

The Munson and Bradley families had so much in common in their association as millers that it is not surprising to note that a little later Joel Bradley acquired the Joel Munson mill, and Job Munson the Bradley mill. In the Sleeping Giant State Park, the Joel Munson dam across Mill River is one of the historical landmarks of Hamden.

The establishment of Joel Munson's mill in 1735 was the beginning of the settlement of Mount Carmel. It was the natural center for people to meet as they brought their corn to be ground and their logs to be sawed. Roads wide enough for the accommodation of oxtteams carrying loads of lumber, began to ray from it in several directions.

Ithamar Todd built a house a mile east of the river in 1734. Young people seeking Christmas greens in this locality nearly two hundred years later were intrigued by a large round gray stone marked with the initials I. T., which may have been one of Ithamar Todd's boundary stones.

From the very beginning of Mount Carmel throughout its history, there have been families named Dickerman and Ives. Abram Dickerman of New Haven Colony died in 1711, leaving a son Isaac who was born in 1677. Isaac was a deacon in the New Haven church "First Society," and had the titles of captain and esquire. He took active part in New Haven town affairs. He began to acquire land in the Sixth Division of Sequestered Lands, from those to whom they were originally assigned, as early as 1727, continuing such

purchases until 1745. By that time his two older sons Jonathan and Samuel were married and, in their desire to establish homes of their own, they were willing to brave the hardships of settlement in the wilderness of Mount Carmel. The old folks said that the two young men blazed their way through the woods by hatchet marks on the trees; and that when, tired and thirsty, they came upon a sparkling brook, they decided upon that spot for their home. This was about a half mile south of the Steps where Joel Munson was, and the Bradleys were a mile and a half beyond that, while to the south was the thick forest that lay between them and New Haven. The brook has been nearly obliterated in the changes of the years—all that now remains is the spring which was its source on the Orrin Dickerman property.

Jonathan Ives settled in Mount Carmel on Mill River in 1735, later building a house on the Cheshire Road in what became known in time as Ivesville (opposite Ives Street). He married Thankful Cooper and they had eight children.

Ebenezer Ives (1692-1759) had a son Lazarus,* who bought from the Treasurer of New Haven in 1733 the Third Division Sequestered Lands above the Steps originally laid out to Richard Miles, who died without heirs, his property thus reverting to the town. His brother, James Ives (1718-1804), was an early Hamden settler whose sons, Eber, b. 1756, and Elam, b. 1762, were later of importance.

Families who were among the first to settle in Mount Carmel, and whose descendants carried the names down through the years, were Peck, Bassett, Andrews, Doo-

* Jonathan and Lazarus Ives were cousins.

little, Brockett, Hitchcock, Kimberly, Tuttle, and Bradley.

The Chatterton mill, next to the Bradley mill on the present West Todd Street, is still standing, having in recent years been restored and used as a home by the late Malcolm Harris. The land on which the mill was built was originally granted to Joseph Kirby in the Fourth Division of land in 1704, and repeated in the Fifth Division of 1710; but Kirby did not choose to take up his wilderness property, and in the Sixth Division in 1726 it became a part of the acreage set aside for the "pious use" of the First Society in New Haven. Reverend James Pierpont was the pastor of the First Church, and he received the property and willed it to the church. Waite Chatterton bought it in 1747, and built the mill sometime before 1760. In 1764 he deeded a piece of land to his son Abraham, bounding it on one side by "land bought of the Church's Committee." For 175 years the Chatterton mill sawed timber, always owned and operated by the same family. Four generations of Chattertons—Waite, Abraham, Daniel and Aaron—carried on the ancient industry.

Meanwhile, the grist mills were not prospering, and in 1761 the millers of New Haven joined in sending petitions to the General Assembly protesting the recent legislative enactment which had limited the millers' toll to one pint of grain for bolting each bushel. They begged leave to take a quart as toll, claiming that many of them had at great cost erected grist mills and supplied bolting mills for the convenience and accommodation of the inhabitants with flour, and they asked, "Will your Honors be pleased to consider that in the Province of New York there is 1/10 part of wheat taken by the

millers for grinding only, and we 1/16 part and no more; and that unless Your Honors grant some relief we cannot maintain our bolting mills; and must pray Your Honors to grant relief in the matter aforesaid, and as in duty bound shall ever pray." At least two of the millers who signed the plaintive petition were local men—Joel Munson and Robert Talmadge.

MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

When the Sixth Division was made in 1726 (largely in the northern lands about the Blue Hills) provision was made "for public and pious uses as has been done before." This included support of a grammar school, and 20 acres of land for the minister of each church then in existence; and 50 acres were set aside in anticipation of a potential new parish near the Blue Hills. This property was to be used for the support of a parish and minister when they should be constituted. For the support of the First Society, 100 acres north of Dorman's, and 75 acres more, were set aside. In 1741 the town farm, already spoken of as a landmark, is thus disposed of: "located near Wallingford Plain, and held by John Morris, to be sold for the benefit of the First Society, part of the proceeds are to go to Cheshire and North Societies when they shall be organized." In 1742 there is record of a highway through First Society land, north of Benjamin Warner's.

The Congregational church, being the established church, was supported by the Colony. Previous to 1667, while township and parish were identical, every minister's salary was voted in town meeting, and he was granted an amount of land and a house, and some-

times firewood also. The tax levied by the Colony for the support of the Gospel had been collected with the regular taxes, but in 1667 payment of taxes for the support of the established church from members of dissenting religious groups became the source of considerable friction among the people, and town and parish began to separate.

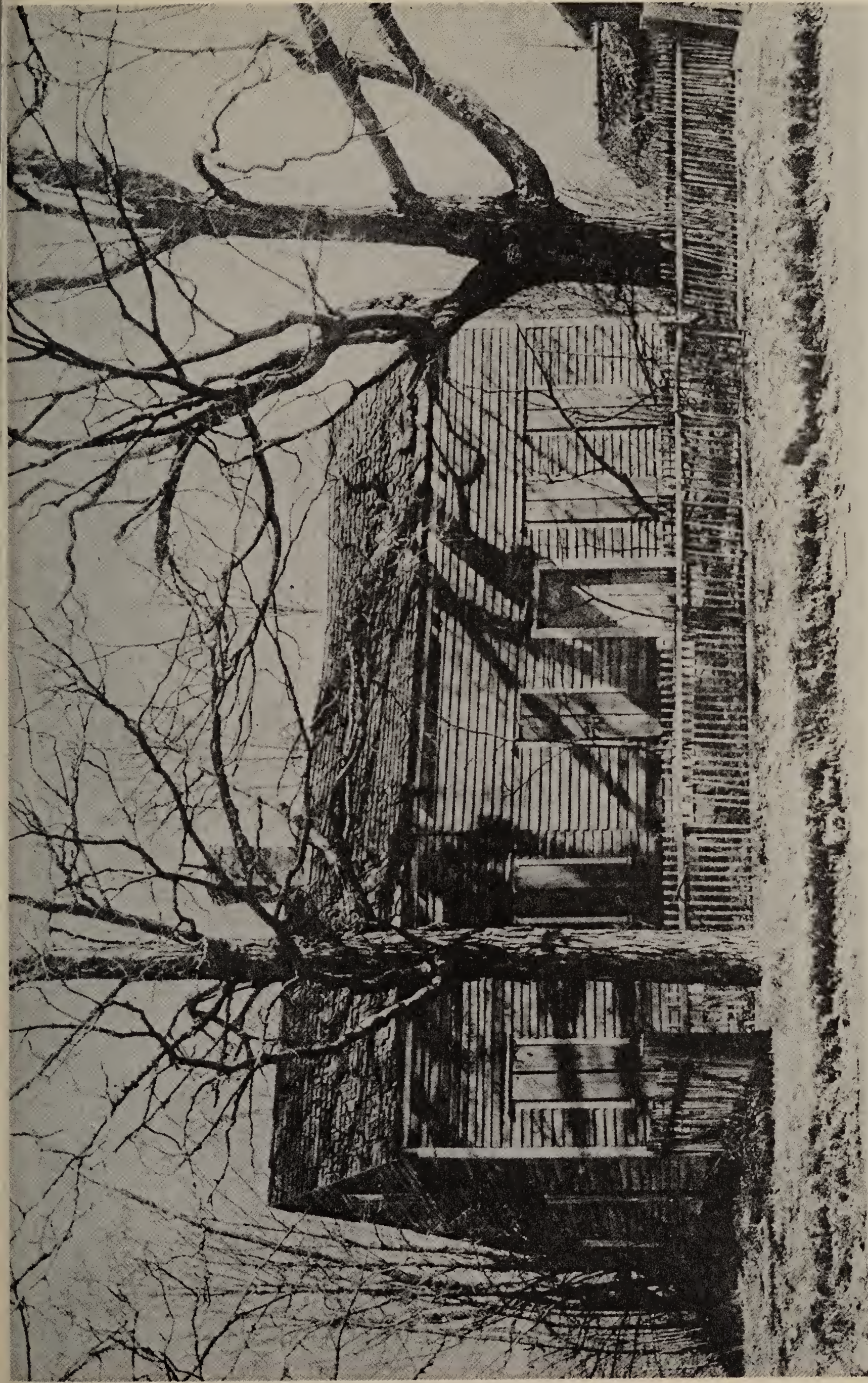
In 1708 everyone could worship as he saw fit, yet not be excused from paying taxes toward the support of the Congregational church. In 1726, members of other religious denominations having become numerous, the General Court allowed the formation of other than Congregational churches, and also ceased to hold town meetings as part of the church meetings. In 1727 members of the Anglican church (later the Episcopal church) were freed from paying taxes for the established church, and were given the liberty to tax themselves. Supporters of this faith were increasing, and the Congregational powers at Yale College sustained a major shock when, in 1722, eleven of the college faculty turned from Congregationalism to embrace it. This was a sign of the times, indicating that there was good reason for politic concessions to be made to the Episcopal church; even more strength was gained by it in the period (1735-42) of the "Great Awakening," when revival services in some of the Congregational churches were disapproved and deemed undignified by conservative members who thereupon deserted to the Episcopal fold. Release from paying taxes to the established church was in 1729 extended to Baptists and Quakers.

The people living above the Todd mill up to the Blue Hills, as well as those beyond the mountain, felt

that church attendance from such a distance was a hardship. So they asked and received permission, in 1739, to attend services elsewhere than in New Haven, those above the mountain to go to Cheshire, where Reverend Samuel Hall was pastor, and those below it to North Haven, under the leadership of Reverend Isaac Stiles. Familiar names on the North Haven petition were those of Enos Pardee, Joel Munson, and Nathaniel, Andrew, and Theophilus Goodyear. Among those going to Cheshire were Daniel and Amos Bradley, Lazarus Ives, Daniel Sperry, and Nathaniel and Enos Tuttle. In the *History of Cheshire* Joseph Beach says: "The advent of Pastor Hall, and the enjoyment of religious privileges, brought to the new society ten or more heads of families from Hamden who worshipped at the West Society at first by tolerance and afterward by permission of an act of the Assembly passed at one of the sessions held in New Haven."

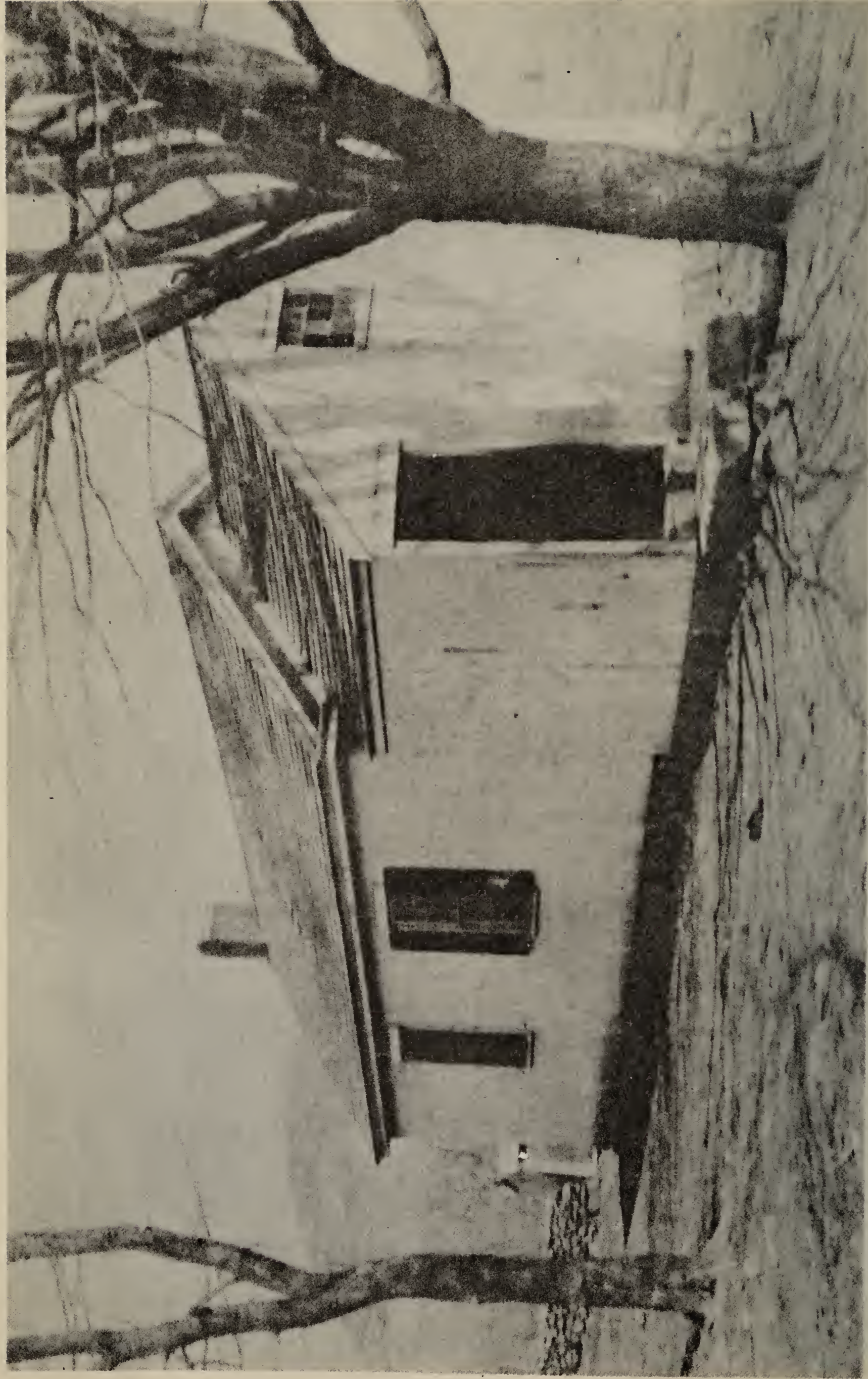
The Goodyears mentioned as going to North Haven to church were grandsons of Magistrate Stephen Goodyear, one of the first settlers of New Haven Colony. Their father's name was John, and the family mansion once stood about opposite the present town hall in Centerville.

The next step in the growth of a settlement in Mount Carmel occurred in 1743, when Samuel Bellamy, Sr., of Cheshire, shrewdly saw the wisdom of establishing a tavern at the northern end of the common. He built it close to the present Mount Carmel depot, where it stood until 1880. For well over a century the tavern was a magnetic center of activity and hospitality. Joel Munson's mill near-by was already a focal point for settlers from all directions who came there regularly



Amos Bradley House, 1766, North of the Mountain

Gift of Arnold G. Dana



Hamden's First Schoolhouse, 1770, in Its Second Position "On the Brow of the Hill"

for the grinding of their corn and the sawing of their boards. The tavern helped to attract others to come to the region to live. Traders, driving their ox teams with loads of produce for the New Haven markets, broke their journey by stopping overnight there on their way down; then with an early start the next morning they might reach New Haven, dispose of their produce, make their purchases, and get back to the tavern at night. Twelve miles a day was considered a fair day's journey over colonial roads. An amusing story was told of a guest named Dr. Jones who was stopping at the Bellamy tavern. He came back from a business trip to New Haven, somewhat late for the chicken dinner which he had ordered. Upon arrival at the tavern he discovered that a group of young people had eaten his dinner, and he composed this rhymed lament about it:

Curse those owls
Who ate the fowls,
And left the bones
For Dr. Jones.*

The sort of roads which in the early days had sufficed for local use were not adequate for commerce between the towns. Back in 1726 there had been a town vote to look after the local highways, and husbandmen were ordered to make the axletrees of their carts five or six inches wider by April 1. Probably there was some relation between the width of the carts and the width of the roads. A New Haven town meeting held in 1747, with Isaac Dickerman acting as moderator, voted: "The town will give 9 lbs. money toward the making and finishing of a bridge on the road to Cheshire; and Ralph

* John H. Dickerman.

Lines shall maintain a good fence across said bridge; so long as the plank on said bridge last for said money." This sounds somewhat ambiguous, but it indicates the difficulty which New Haven was beginning to feel in the burden of her roads. In 1767 a special tax was levied to pay for rebuilding bridges carried away by a flood.

The road from Hartford to New Haven, coming down through Wethersfield, Farmington, Middletown, and Wallingford, was criticized in 1759 as "very crooked, indirect and in many places and respects ill chosen and unfit for life," and suggestions were offered that it be made "more direct and convenient as well for carriages as travelling to ye great accommodation and benefit of all his Majesty's subjects." The General Assembly appointed a committee of three to shorten and improve this road, and after inspecting it they reported as follows on the lower end of the road:

All the various turns and crooks therein Through Farmington Bounds and Wallingford Bounds where the Rhoad now goes to Wallingford Plain Lotts is well chosen and Desreble Being only in some places Too Narros & Streighten and we viewed the Rhoad through said field & to New haven Bounds and finding in said fields Gates across the Rhoad and the Land Plowed on Both sides of the Cart-Rhoad and even into the Path in many places so that by the obstructions of the Gate and plowing & using the Land so near the Rhoad the same it is very prejudicial to the publick—and we are of the opinion that there should be a highway laid out through said plain field four rods wide at least to be an open highway & no Gates or Barrs across the same and the other parts of the Rhoad now used & . . . to altered by four Rods Wide at Least except through said Meadow land, which need not be more than two rods or a rod & an half.

In 1766 a committee consisting of John Yale, John Barrett, Timothy Foster, Yale Bishop, Samuel Andrews, Jr., Jonathan Foster, and Jonathan Collins stated that the road through Wallingford to the "Plains so-called," forty feet wide in places, was being encroached upon, and asked that a committee view it.

Protection of grain from destruction by livestock was still an issue, and in 1756 Joel Munson in Mount Carmel was made the keeper of a pound built by his son. Almost immediately two other pounds were petitioned for by Waite Chatterton in the northwestern part of town and Ezra Dorman in the west.

After the mills and tavern in Mount Carmel had become the nucleus for a settlement, the most natural event to follow was a petition to the General Assembly for a distinct parish and church of their own. This was drawn up in May, 1757, and bore the signatures of Daniel Bradley, Samuel Bellamy, Joel Munson, Daniel Sperry, Amos Peck, Jonathan Dickerman, and others.

When the North Haven Parish heard of this petition, they were alarmed and dismayed, and they held a meeting in which Captain Samuel Barns was named their agent

to oppose the memorial of the inhabitants of the northern part of the New Haven First Society who pray to be made into a distinct parish—in that they are about to include divers families belonging to this society, whereas we were never notified of such doings, nor do we think it best they should be set off.

In spite of Captain Barns's best efforts, the petition was granted in October, and the Mount Carmel Ecclesiastical Society was established, with "all the powers, privileges, and immunities" to which it was entitled. Its

boundaries were defined to include the territory from the border of Cheshire to nearly a mile below the present village of Centerville.

In those days the General Assembly would not give incorporation papers to a church, but Ecclesiastical Societies were considered more firmly organized and entitled to such consideration. Grants to these societies gave them the privilege of holding property, and of raising money by taxation to cover the expenses of the parish. They were required to maintain schools, and the voting privilege in the Society was given only to members.

North Haven was soon disturbed in spirit again, for the Mount Carmel Society felt the need of more territory, and once more a petition was presented to the General Assembly, asking for an enlargement on the northeast border. The North Haven group indignantly voted

that they were unwilling to part with one inch of land that does now or did belong to the Society, and being cited by the inhabitants of Mt. Carmel to appear at the General Assembly if they saw cause, to object against their having their request granted, in the memorial they are sending to the Assembly. This Society, looking upon it as highly unreasonable that they should have such request granted, have by vote chosen Ensign Dan Ives their agent to oppose them in the matter of said memorial, to the last extremity, at the General Assembly now held at Hartford.

Ensign Ives did so vigorously oppose "to the last extremity" at the hearing that the Mount Carmel Society's petition for more territory was denied.

When Reverend Benjamin Trumbull, D.D., famous author of the *Complete History of Connecticut, Civil*

and Ecclesiastical, preached his century sermon at North Haven in 1801, he said that some time before his ordination (1760) Mount Carmel was made a different parish, and that between twenty and thirty families were by them taken off from the North Haven Society; and that about eighteen members of the North Haven church had by mutual consent been embodied with the Mount Carmel Society. Dr. Trumbull went on to tell his remarkable record of service:

I was ordained to the pastoral office by the Consociation of the pastors and churches of the whole county, Dec. 24, 1760. Through help obtained from God, I continue to this time. I am now entering upon the 41st year of my ministry. My locks have whitened and my eyes grown dim in your service; but during this long period, through the wonderful patience and goodness of the great Father of mercies, I have never been unable to perform the public worship on both parts of the day, but in one single instance. I have been able to meet you at every lecture, at every funeral, and upon all occasions in which my ministerial service has been required. Within a little less than a century, you have had three ministers, two of whom have served you about 75 years.

In the olden days, a minister when called to a church and settled there, expected to remain for life.

The Mount Carmel Ecclesiastical Society met for the first time on January 31, 1758, and the next meeting was held at the ever-popular home of Samuel Bellamy. Subsequent meetings were "warned" by written notice on the meetinghouse and on taverns at either end of the parish, as well as the beating of a drum on the appointed day. The committee on the subject of schools—Waite Chatterton, Jonathan Ives, and Samuel Atwater

—arranged for classes to be held for the instruction of children at the Bellamy home—an arrangement which was followed for twelve years thereafter, until the first schoolhouse was built under a sycamore tree beside the church, in 1770, the building some time later (1819) being moved “to the brow of the hill” across the street.

By 1774, three school districts had been laid out:

“North” was from the north end of the parish, south on “Chesher” Road to brook between Basel Munson’s and Kimberly’s, and westwardly to Bethany, including Deacon Amos Peck’s.

“Middle” was from the south line of the above, south on Chesher Road to Hezekiah Bassett’s, then west to highway south of Jonathan Dickerman’s to Bethany.

“South” was the remainder of the parish. In 1776, “Southwest” was from the “Brethren” so-called, west to the bounds of the Society, north by highway to top of hill west of Isaac Hitchcock, north of Enos Tuttle’s.

The meetinghouse, fifty-five by forty feet, was finished in 1761. It had square pews, called “dignified seats,” and a massive sounding board. In a Society meeting it was voted “to build a tarit [turret] to the meetinghouse, provided particular men appear to get the timber frame, and finish said tarit by free donation.” There were Sabba-day houses near-by, in which families refreshed and warmed themselves between services, for the church was not warmed with stoves until 1830. Although footwarmers were in some use,

personal ease in religion was an equation never to be worked out by our ancestors While the town meeting, the Society meeting, the militia drill, and the ballot box brought each its sometimes indecorous fol-

lowers there,—yet these were deemed no invasion of the Almighty's rights; but when it was once broached in Dr. Trumbull's church that a chimney and fireplace be constructed, the horrified worshippers arose and would have thrust the thoughtless suggestor headlong from among them.*

Every able-bodied member of the family attended church services on Sunday as the great duty of the week. In snow and zero cold, usually on foot and often stumbling through deep drifts from long distances, into the icy temperature of the never-heated meetinghouse came these devout people who cheerfully braved such hardships to sit in physical discomfort while they warmed their spirits with the Word of God.

Before any musical instrument was used in the church services, it was the custom to repeat after a chosen leader one line at a time of the psalms or sacred tunes. In 1767, Sergeant Stephen Goodyear and Alvin Bradley were chosen to assist Captain Ives in what was called "setting the psalm." Later on, musical instruments were used—the fiddle, and the single or double bass viol. Choir singers were used, and the Society voted that "they would sing by rule and that ther Corristers shud proceed as they have done for some time past." A committee selected the tunes to be used. All the sacred music that church goers knew were a few crude versions of the psalms, five or six of them at best.

Two unsuccessful efforts were made in the next two years to settle a minister in Mount Carmel. There was much heart-burning and wrangling as to the proper way to organize the church. The first candidate who was

* *North Haven Annals.*

invited to settle as minister was Stephen Hawley; but a violent disagreement occurred among the church members as to whether the minister should be ordained by a Council of their own choosing, or by action of the Consociation.* The Mount Carmel people had seen unhappy disruptions over this question before, and because some of them had been members of the Whitehaven Church in New Haven (now United Church), and some of the First Church, which were not in accord on this subject, it was natural to find discord in the Mount Carmel group. They saw, too, the troubles of neighboring churches. In North Haven Reverend Isaac Stiles, who had served as minister for many years, was in his old age engaged in a law suit against his congregation; and in Wallingford, Reverend James Dana was ordained by a Council, a service which was condemned and denounced by the Consociation, which went so far as to publish sentence of noncommunion against the offending church. In the meantime, Mr. Hawley was called to another church, so candidating was once more begun, and Jesse Ives was found acceptable and was invited to stay. But the Consociation would not give their approval until charges against Mr. Ives for "equivocation and want of seriousness" had been investigated. In spite of the resulting suspension of his license to preach, the Mount Carmel group still wanted him, but he declined their offer.

Although Hawley and Ives did not gain the position which they wished when they came to Mount Carmel, they remained long enough under the hospitable Bel-

* The Consociation was composed of an organized group of delegates from a number of churches, who followed the laws prescribed by the Saybrook Platform.

lamy roof to find a wife, each choosing a Bellamy daughter.

In January of 1764 the Mount Carmel group were recognized as a church by their distinguished neighbors, Reverend Samuel Hall of Cheshire, and Reverend Benjamin Trumbull of North Haven.

After ten years of listening to candidating preachers, Reverend Nathaniel Sherman (younger brother of the statesman, Roger Sherman) received a hearty call to become the pastor and was installed in 1768. But after two years of his pastorate there was serious disaffection, and the Consociation voted his dismissal. Mr. Sherman protested that he had built a house and made all other plans with the expectation of spending his life in the parish. He carried his case to court, and to the General Assembly also, over a period of several years without success, and after six years he moved away. But at last in 1781, due to his loyal support of the colonial cause, the General Assembly belatedly granted the demands of his petition, and an indemnity was paid. The house which Nathaniel Sherman built, standing just south of the church, is today one of the oldest houses in the town. Mr. Sherman was three years in building it, the lumber, brick, and nails being brought from Boston; and he enjoyed living in it for only a few short years.

GOVERNMENT

Because a parish was the beginning of so many towns, the fundamental influence of the church on the eventual town government was clearly marked throughout New England. This influence was much stronger in New Haven than elsewhere in Connecticut. New Haven

bequeathed to her children extremely high ideals, which emanated from the meetinghouse. In England, many communities gained the name of "city" because they possessed a cathedral, and in much the same way the New England meetinghouse was the first requisite for a community to become a town. The name meetinghouse, so commonly used instead of church, suggests its double purpose as a place to draw men together in their civil as well as their religious life; and also that their relation to their fellowmen was as sacred as their touch with God.

New England town government can trace a relationship back to the fourteenth century English parishes. In the middle ages the feudal system, in which the lords completely controlled the serfs, was breaking up. As new communities developed, they lacked any established government, although they did have an established church (then the Catholic church) which collected tythes; thus, when England began to pass poor laws, the most logical administrators in each locality were the vestrymen who were already collecting tythes.

Since the vestry meetings were composed of members of the church in good standing, the group began to acquire more and more secular duties, until in time they actually became the local government. (The parish is still the smallest governmental group in England—not the town.)

When the English came to New England, they were familiar with the parish system, they were brought up on it—so they merely modified their previous experience to the New World situation, their church now being Puritan instead of Catholic. It was consistent with their background to require in early Massachusetts

and Connecticut that membership in the church be a prerequisite to the franchise.

Because we of Hamden are offspring of New Haven, we should bear in mind the distinct differences between the eleven Fundamental Orders of the Connecticut Colony (Hartford) accepted in January, 1639, and the six evolved a few months later in New Haven.

In Hartford, after Reverend Thomas Hooker's famous sermon on May 31, 1638, in which he expressed the governmentally revolutionary belief that the true authority for a government is the free consent of the people, Roger Ludlow, the chief legal adviser of the Colony, framed a code of laws which were adopted January 14, 1639. They represent the first example in all history of a written constitution, and they became the model for all constitutions subsequently adopted in the United States and abroad. The five most important principles were these:

All the authority of government comes directly from the people.

There shall be no taxation without representation.

The number of men chosen by the towns to make the laws shall be determined by population.

All freemen who take an oath to be faithful to the state shall have the right to vote.

New towns might join the three original towns—Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor—and have the same government.

Five months later, June 4, 1639, the New Haven settlers met to lay the foundations of their government. They decided in favor of government by the few, while Connecticut Colony had made the choice of government by the majority. In New Haven, only church

members could be citizens or hold office. So it was the church which came first and organized the civil government.

The chief differences were that Connecticut Colony provided for practically universal suffrage, while New Haven restricted the ballot to church members. In one, church and state were separated; in the other they were practically identical. The source of authority at Hartford was the people, and in New Haven, the Scriptures. Connecticut Colony was a democracy, and New Haven an aristocracy.

After Connecticut Colony drew up in 1650 the "body of laws for the government of the commonwealth," New Haven, five years later, brought out the quite different code, the Blue Laws.

It is easy to understand how painful to New Haven Colony was the necessity of becoming a part of Connecticut, in 1662. The immediate occasion was the Connecticut Charter, obtained by Governor John Winthrop, Jr., from King Charles II, a document which swept away New Haven Colony and included her in a strip, as wide as Connecticut is now, and extending from Narragansett River to the Pacific Ocean. The Charter granted the Colony the qualified right to govern itself. The people might make their own laws, select their own officers, punish, pardon, and mete out justice, without appeal to England. They really were independent in all but name. No king had ever given a more democratic charter.

The northern part of Pennsylvania came within the bounds of the territory granted to Connecticut, but unfortunately William Penn soon secured a conflicting claim upon it. When Connecticut people in considerable

numbers moved upon the land on the Susquehanna River, never before occupied, their right to be there was violently disputed by the Pennsylvania people, and the struggle for possession was called "the Pennanite War." With characteristic determination, some six thousand Connecticut people set up Westmoreland County, and held elections and town meetings, observed the laws of Connecticut, and sent representatives to the legislature which met in Hartford and New Haven. The Twenty-Fourth Connecticut Regiment in the Continental Army came from this region, and it was during their absence from home that the Indians destroyed the settlement.

By 1762, all the land in Connecticut had been allotted to the towns. The roads called "Kingshighways" that connected the towns and carried trade and travelers between the large centers were uniformly bad. Much better care was taken of roads within the towns, branching out from the church and from the mill to the commons and home lots. At New Haven center no room had been left for the children of the original settlers or for newcomers, when they should want land. They had to go into the outskirts of the town to settle.

England attempted to monopolize all the trade for her own merchants, and therefore deliberately discouraged trade between colonies. This caused each little town or village to depend almost entirely upon what it could produce for itself. They were so nearly self-supporting that the people did not wish to go elsewhere, and they would not support the main highways. Likewise, they had little interest in the coming of travelers, and were not hospitable to outsiders. They even practiced the old custom of "warning out" undesirables who came to them without invitation.

Gradually there grew up in Connecticut a resentment against the use of English goods. In 1763, the English authorities made a resolute effort to prevent the illicit trade with the West Indies which was being carried on by the Colonies. A New Haven town meeting took determined action on receipt of a letter from Boston urging agreement on "some measures for promoting economy":

That it is their opinion that it is expedient for the town to take all prudent and legal measures to encourage the produce and manufactures of this colony, and to lessen the use of superfluities, and more especially the following articles imported from abroad: Carriages of all sorts, men's and women's hats, shoes, and ready made apparel, household furniture, sole leather, gold and silver buttons; gold, silver and thread, lace, wrought plate; diamond, stone and paste ware, clocks, silversmith's and Jeweler's ware, house furniture, broadcloths that cost above 10 s. sterling per yard, muffs, furs and tippets, starch, gauze, women's and children's toys, silk and cotton velvets, linseed oil, malt liquors and cheese; and that a subscription be recommended to the several inhabitants and householders of the town, whereby they may mutually agree and engage that they will encourage the use and consumption of articles manufactured in the British American Colonies, and more especially in this Colony, and that they will not, after March 31 next, purchase any of the above-enumerated articles imported from abroad, and that they will be careful to promote the saving of linen rags and other materials proper for making paper in this Colony.

Nearly everything was made by hand at this time. Machinery was as yet almost unknown in the productive arts. The early colonists included in their number artisans of most of the manual trades followed in Eng-

land at the time that the Colony was established. But England actively discouraged all Colonial attempts to develop trades that were competitive with hers.

DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOLS BY 1766

For all their absorbing interest in religion in this period, the colonists never neglected the schooling of children. In the early days of the Colony, the church made itself responsible for both religious and secular instruction of children, and taxed the parents to pay for it. In 1658, when the villages of East Haven and Fair Haven were founded, John Davenport had remarked that there would be officers to maintain order and some to teach the children, and the 1676 Colony records show that men were appointed "to mack surch throughout the town whether children are educated according to law," and "to see yt children and servants are brought up to read and be taught in the principles of religion." In 1679 the townsmen named Abraham Dickerman and William Bradley as responsible for doing this work. Schoolhouses were invariably built in the shadow of a church and would never have come into being in the Colony had it not been for the influence of the church, which throughout New England's history has sponsored innumerable educational institutions.

In 1700, the Colonial Assembly provided for constables in each town to collect a special school tax, but in 1711 provision was made for payment from the Colonial Treasury to the towns for such purposes.

In 1766 the district system of school administration was established for Connecticut by the General Assembly.

Each town and each society shall have full power and authority to divide themselves into proper and necessary districts for keeping their schools, and to alter and regulate the same from time to time as they shall [have] occasion, which districts, so made, shall draw their equal portions of said monies, as well as all other public monies, for the support of schools belonging to such respective town or societies according to the list of each respective district therein.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

The historian George Bancroft once said: "He that would understand the political character of New England must study the constitution of its towns, its schools, and its militia." New Haven and Hamden are so typical in these regards that it is well to know the salient points in each of these spheres.

The history of the militia begins with the order of November 25, 1639, applying to all males from sixteen to sixty, if not exempted by office in state or church, that everyone that bears arms shall be completely furnished with arms—viz: a musket, a sword, bandoleers, a rest, a pound of powder, 20 bullets fitted to their musket, or 4 pounds of pistol shot or swan shot at least, and be ready to show them in the marketplace . . . before Captain Turner, under penalty of 20 shillings fine for default or absence.

Such general training as was ordered was at first intended to be monthly drills and a viewing of armor on every other month, and weekly exercises performed by squadrons in rotation. This schedule was not strictly kept, general training occurring once in several months, a strict view once a quarter, and squadron training in alternating months.

The Sunday watch in and around the meetinghouse was the responsibility of the militia. Squadrons of the training band took turns at this duty, and their seats in the meetinghouse were conveniently located at the rear. The guardsmen wore their brown homespun, knee breeches, and long woolen stockings, with powder horn and bullet pouch slung over their shoulders and matchlock musket in hand, ready to repel attacks of the Indians. Every man who was not a militiaman was obliged to carry his sword to meeting.

The Wars with France early in the eighteenth century increased the importance of the militia. Joseph Cooper was named an ensign in charge of "the company or train band att the North Parrish of the town of Newhaven" in May, 1733, "in the sixth year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the Second, King of Great Britain"; the commission was signed by "Joseph Tallcott, Esq. Governour and Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Colony of Connecticut in New England." Thomas Wilmot was confirmed lieutenant in the Sixth Company Train Band in New Haven in 1727.

On June 25, 1747, Captain Caleb Alling of the Second Company of the Second Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, ordered the clark* of the Company, Caleb Hotchkiss, to impress eight men for service at Sheffield and Stockbridge. These eight seem to have been selected: Asa Alling, Jonah Attwater, Matthew Gilbert, Jr., Ezekiel Hotchkiss, Daniel Lash, Jabez Munson, Daniel Alling, and Joseph Woodin. These six appear to have been alternates: Joseph Munson, Isaac

* Every Train Band had a clark whose duty it was to keep record of every man from sixteen to sixty.

Bradley, Hezekiah Hotchkiss, Nathaniel Mix, Caleb Sperry, and Daniel Woodin.

In 1739, it was ordered that the military companies of New Haven, Milford, Branford, and Derby be made into one entire regiment, the Second.

The Eighth Train Band of New Haven was in existence in Mount Carmel in 1754, with Daniel Bradley captain, and Waite Chatterton lieutenant. Most of the troops of the Revolutionary period and the few preceding years who came from the territory which was eventually Hamden, were enrolled in the Second Regiment, of which the colonel was Roger Newton in 1759 and 1767, Edward Allen in 1771, and Edward Russell in 1779, in which year the lieutenant-colonel was Hezekiah Sabin. Daniel Bradley was captain of the Fifteenth Company of this regiment in 1759, and in that year he addressed to the General Assembly the following letter, most interesting in its spelling:

Mount Carmel, May the 3 Day 1759

To the Honorable Genralle Asembly to be Holden at Hartford on the 10 Day of May 1759, Gentlemen, in pursuance of my order from Cornal Nuton [Colonel Newton] after Du warning given to all within my Limits who have a Right to vote for officers being met together, on the 16 Day of april 1759 I Led my Company to the Chose of an Insine which Have by a Cleare majority Chose Mr. Amos Bradley theire Edest seirgant to be theire Insine.

In May, 1760, Jonathan Ives commanded the Fifteenth Company, with Amos Bradley lieutenant and Jacob Atwater ensign. Ives was still captain in 1764.

In 1761 there was a record of land "leased in Mount Carmell for a Training place," from Jason Bradley,

Stephen Cooper, and Stephen Goodyear to Jonathan Ives, one and a quarter acres and thirty-two rods.

Jacob Atwater and Samuel Atwater held the office of captain in 1770, Stephen Goodyear in 1773, and Jesse Goodyear in 1777. Bazel Munson led the Company in 1779, and the unit was still in existence in 1788, when William C. Smith was elected ensign.

In the Library of Congress is a manuscript copy of band music which was once the property of the Bellamy Band of Mount Carmel, Connecticut. It contains a march entitled "Col. Bellamy's March." Perhaps it was inspired by a warm, convivial entertainment in his tavern for the militiamen of his regiment.

The Seventh Company is mentioned in records of 1781, when Charles Alling was captain and Jabez Turner lieutenant. Alling was a resident of what later became Hamden, and he had just been the lieutenant of the Seventeenth Company. The Twelfth Company is mentioned in records of 1784, when Allen Ives was captain, and 1788, when Hezekiah Bassett was lieutenant and Hezekiah Dickerman ensign.

The Seventeenth Company is better known because its boundaries, added to those of Mount Carmel Parish, formed the Town of Hamden. The formation of the Company was authorized in a letter from Colonel Roger Newton to Captain Amos Hitchcock of the Fifth Company, saying that "whereas there is a third military company . . . out of the Fifth Company and the First Military Company," the captain was directed to hold an election of officers. At the election, on April 27, 1767, Lieutenant John Woodin was elected captain; Stephen Ford lieutenant; and John Gill ensign.

Captain Woodin retired on account of his age in 1769, and Stephen Ford commanded the unit until 1771, when he too retired, having been in "a low and declining state of health" and with "little or no hopes of recovery." The membership of the Company, which was always an "alarm company" (or in our language home guards), at that time was as follows:

Stephen Ford, Capt., John Gill, Lt., Elisha Booth, Ensign; Samuel Cooper, Hezekiah Tuttle, drummers; Caleb Alling, Moses and Joseph Gilbert, and Moses Ford, corporals; Zadock, Amos and Abraham Alling, Timothy Cooper, Dan Carrington, Hezekiah Dickerman, Jonathan, Nathaniel and Daniel Ford, Michael Gregson, Lemuel, Daniel, Matthew, Amos and Sackett Gilbert; John Gorham, Nathaniel Heaton, Jr., John Hubbard, John, David, Nathaniel, Jabez and John Munson, Jr., Job Potter, Abel Stockwell, Thomas, Daniel and Josiah Talmadge, Gordain Turner, Japhet Tuttle, James and Timothy Bassett, and Israel and Silas Woodin, privates.

The Captain of the 17th Company in 1771 was John Gill, Moses Gilbert in 1775, Caleb Alling in 1778, John Gilbert in 1779, and in 1785, Stephen Munson, Jr., and Stephen Ford, Ensign.

The Twelfth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth Companies appear to have held the status of training bands or alarm companies throughout the Revolution, and did not see action except during the British invasion of New Haven in July, 1779. But the officers and men were continually being transferred to units of the Continental Army.

THE REVOLUTION

At the time of the Lexington alarm in 1775, Captain Benedict Arnold, then commander of the Governor's

Foot Guards, called out his company, wishing to start at once for Lexington to join the Continental Army as volunteers, and about forty of the members made ready to leave. When the New Haven town authorities refused to furnish the men with ammunition, Arnold drew his men up in order outside the windows behind which the selectmen sat, and announced that if the keys were not given him in five minutes' time, they would force open the doors and take what they wanted. The town fathers saw fit to yield to the threat, and gave up the keys.

Jonathan Mix, whose wife inherited the estate called "Cherry Hill," where he at one time lived, was a member of the New Haven Cadets, and also belonged to the company which marched to Lexington. He went with the Connecticut militia to New York in 1775 to destroy the press of the Tory newspaper known as the *New York Gazetteer*, published by James Rivington. Mix was with the first naval expedition to the Bahamas, which captured New Providence, a place of refuge for many of the Loyalists. He sailed as captain of marines, was captured, and was a prisoner on the Jersey Prison Ship.

Other Hamden men who marched to Lexington were Samuel Atwater, Hezekiah Dickerman, John and Theophilus Goodyear, and Ebenezer and Benjamin Warner. The last of these named was in Arnold's Company, and also took part in the siege of Boston. Aaron Tuttle enlisted at the age of seventeen. Jonathan and Isaac Alling served throughout the whole war. Others in the Continental Army were Joseph Peck, Bazel Munson, Lazarus Ives, and Elijah Wolcott.

It has been said that in 1776 many people in New Haven were British sympathizers. Doubtless all those

who were supporters of the Anglican (later called Episcopal) church were loyal to the king, and because of the feeling of patriots against them, Anglican services were discontinued in New Haven in 1776. The only known instance of sympathy for Britain in Hamden is the case of Lemuel Bradley, who went over to the British forces. His wife, Esther, was sister to the famous president of Yale, Dr. Ezra Stiles, in whose diary was noted August 24, 1779: "Noon sailed my sister Esther Bradley, with her five children, in a Flag for Long Island where her husband is, having joined the enemies of the United States."

Dr. Stiles and Dr. Timothy Dwight were strong supporters of the colonial cause, as were all Congregational ministers. Massachusetts and Connecticut were settled by people who fled from the ecclesiastical tyranny of the Anglican church, and Congregationalists feared that Anglican prelates would attempt to control colonial religion and close the independent churches.

Dr. Trumbull of North Haven invited men of his congregation to enlist, and forty-six did. In 1776 a brigade was called for, to reënforce Washington's army which was desperately trying to hold New York against a vastly superior force—the muster roll of the Fifth Battalion was in Dr. Trumbull's handwriting. A company of sixty Hamden and North Haven men (thirty-seven of them from Hamden) was formed, and he was its chaplain. In 1777 he was captain of a company of volunteers. Most preachers had an interest in politics, and many spoke from the pulpit for the colonial cause. A Torrington pastor (N. Roberts) prayed: "Great God, we pray Thee remove that Lord North from office by death or otherwise."

The Mount Carmel Ecclesiastical Society records show a collection of taxes beginning in 1758 with a farthing rate, which became by 1777 a sixpence on the pound. In 1778 the records read: "Collector of taxes not to take Continental money issued May 21, 1777 and April 18, 1778." The next year rates were "payable in Continental bills." There was no national treasury, and during the war, 1775-79, the Congress issued quantities of paper money which fell rapidly in value. In 1779 a paper dollar was worth only two or three cents, and was the basis for the common expression "not worth a Continental." The heaviest losers were the soldiers, who had been paid in this paper money.

Reverend Nathaniel Sherman was an ardent patriot in the war, and when Congress made desperate plea for funds, he responded by investing the money he had received from the sale of his home (£600) in a loan to the government, confident that it was secure. When he was later in serious financial straits due to the government's inability to pay, he was granted his demands against the Mount Carmel Church by the General Assembly in 1781, and it was readily paid by a Society who forgot their former animosity in their appreciation of his patriotism.

In 1780 the Mount Carmel Society accepted "3 d. on the pound in hard money or its equivalent in circulating currency of the country."

A bill rendered to Caleb Mix by Joseph Peck, innkeeper, in 1779 lists

six meals of vitls at two shillings

five bools of tody at 18 pence per boole

two botls of wine at 8 shillings per botl

To your bill in Conentiel money at three Dolders
or at a shilling hard money.

A record of unshaken financial credit throughout the war was typical of Connecticut, along with the name "provision state" given her by Washington, who also coined the name of "Brother Jonathan" by so calling Governor Jonathan Trumbull. Perhaps also typical of Connecticut were the attempts at smuggling, even in defiance of the state government.

In 1786 Samuel Bellamy and Chauncey Dickerman of Mount Carmel attempted to recover a cargo which had been seized by state authorities in 1780. They had secured permission from Governor Jonathan Trumbull to take to Rhode Island a shipload of rye, Indian corn, beans, and flour, and bring back a cargo of salt for New Haven and Cheshire. They chartered a small sloop and brought it to Middletown, hiring Alling Ives of Mount Carmel, "a sea-faring man," to load it. In September, 1780, the contents of the sloop were confiscated under the embargo laws. The state authorities claimed that the vessel's load was much greater than the permit called for and a search brought to light some tierces of flour, some cheap shoes, and other articles not named, and some cheese which was hidden under the grain. Bellamy and Dickerman never got back their goods, nor compensation for them.

In August, 1778, Lieutenant John Gilbert was authorized by the General Assembly to transport by land fifty bushels of home-manufactured salt to New York, and to bring back flour for the benefit of the manufacturers of New Haven and Branford.

Salt was an interesting commodity in the Revolution, valued for its use as a preservative as well as a seasoning. The Mount Carmel Ecclesiastical Society in 1777 was apparently delegated to give a share of salt, doled

out by Samuel Atwater, to everyone who took the oath of fidelity to the State of Connecticut. If, in 1778, John Gilbert, authorized by the General Assembly, was taking home-manufactured *salt* to New York to trade for *flour* needed by local manufacturers, it seems strange enough that Governor Trumbull permitted Bellamy and Dickerman, in exact reverse order, to send *flour* to Rhode Island to be exchanged for a cargo of *salt*, needed by New Haven and Cheshire! Could the British invaders in the year between have had an effect on the local supply of salt? Gilbert, who was later captain of the Seventeenth Company, became in December, 1776, a lieutenant of the Company formed by Reverend Benjamin Trumbull of North Haven. Of this Company Joel Bradley became second lieutenant.

Throughout the war, the British made many attacks on coastal towns, and New Haven did not escape. The British authorities thought that Connecticut should be punished for her notable activities in the rebellion. She had more soldiers in the field than any other Colony except Massachusetts, she supplied the army abundantly with agricultural products and manufactured articles, as well as arms and ammunition, and her coast-town privateers preyed on British shipping.

New Haven had been planning an Independence Day celebration on July 5, 1779 (the Fourth coming on Sunday), so when Dr. Ezra Stiles, looking through a telescope in the tower of a Yale building, saw the British fleet coming and gave the alarm—many at first thought the excitement was a part of the celebration. It was soon all too evident that the British were invading New Haven. Many wisely hid their treasures and others fled to East and West Rocks. There was a pitiful handful of

soldiers at home to make any resistance, but the Seventeenth Company was among those rushed to the defense of the town, and was in the thick of the fight at "Ditch Corner," now the corner of Orchard and Goffe Streets.

John Gilbert, grandson of Matthew, was captain of the Company, and upon receipt of the news mounted his horse and rallied his men to meet the British. Eleven of his men were killed, including his brother Michael; and he himself and many others were wounded. When the British captain ordered him to surrender, Gilbert asked if they would be treated as prisoners of war. When the answer was, "No, you damned rebel," accompanied by an order to a soldier to shoot him, Captain Gilbert said, "We'll never surrender," and shot the officer; whereupon he was killed. The inscription on his monument reads:

In memory of Capt. John Gilbert, a gentleman of reputation, beloved and esteemed in life, and lamented in death, who fell in defense of his country, being slain by the British troops when they plundered this town July 5, 1779, in the 48th year of his age.

Two men of the Seventeenth Company, John and Timothy Bassett, who lived near Shepherd's Brook, heard the alarm of the British invasion and hurried to join the defenders, carrying the muskets which they had used in the service of the Continental Army. Both were wounded in the encounter, Timothy so seriously that he was thought by his brother to be dead. Aided by people living near the scene of action, and with difficulty brought home in the family chaise, he was slowly restored to health. Later he served as a selectman of Hamden from 1802 to 1808.

THE SEVENTEENTH COMPANY LIST

"Pay Rool of Capt. Caleb Alling's Company Edward
Russells Regiment Served in New Haven"

	<i>No. Days in Service</i>	<i>Wages Due</i>
Caleb Alling, Capt.	3	7 0 0
Samuel Humaston, Lieut.	3	4 16 0
Charles Alling, Ens.	3	3 12 0
Philemon Potter, Sgt.	2	1 18 5
Titus Mansfield, Sgt.	2	1 18 5
Timothy Dickerman, Sgt.	2	1 18 5
Asa Todd, Sgt.	1	19 2½
Joel Ford, Sgt.	2	1 18 5
Samuel Woodin, Corp.	1	17 7
Wm. Denslow, Corp.	2	1 15 2
Isaac Hubbard, Corp.	1	1 15 2
David Atwater	1	16 0
Daniel Abbott	1	16 0
Zopher Atwater	2	1 12 0
Isaac Bradley	1	16 0
Joseph Ball	2	1 12 0
John Gill	1	16 0
Mathew Gilbert	1	16 0
Nathaniel Heaton	2	1 12 0
Thos. Leek	2	1 12 0
Richard Mansor (Munson?)	2	1 12 0
Timothy Potter	2	1 12 0
Joseph Potter	1	16 0
Abraham Turner	1	16 0
Enoch Turner	1	16 0
Jabez Turner	2	1 12 0
Ely Woodin	1	16 0
Joseph Dorman	1	16 0
John Gilbert	1	16 0
Israel Woodin	1	16 0
Sam Woodin	1	16 0
Silus Woodin	1	16 0

Clothing issues included coats, vests, cloth overalls, baize overalls, shirts, hose, shoes, large blankets, small

blankets, baize blankets, socks, watch coats; and hats, shoe buckles, breeches, leather caps, linen overalls, and frocks.

CAPTAIN CALEB MIX

An unusual case of official mercy and group affection occurred in 1780. Charges were brought against Captain Caleb Mix by the lieutenant and the ensign of the Fifth Company, Second Regiment, claiming that on July 20, 1779, he made out a false and undue payroll of his said company for their services at the time of the invasion of the enemy, by inserting the names and drawing the pay for men who did not belong to said company, and others that were never in service, and unjustly defrauding many of the soldiers out of a great part of their wages, pocketing the same for himself.

The General Assembly investigated the charges and deemed him guilty. He was cashiered and reduced to the ranks in May, 1780. Mix asserted that "not even my enemies have accused me of cowardice or want of exertion." He said, "I judged it expedient not to pay the privates the full amount."

The Fifth Company met supposedly to choose a successor, but instead, forty-six members signed a memorial to the General Assembly asking that Mix be reinstated, calling him "a man of bravery, activity, and zealous attachment to the cause of his country," and blaming him for "misapprehension rather than badness of heart." On March 5, 1781, it was reported that Mix had been elected captain by a majority of six votes.

Every year on Memorial Day, bright little flags wave above the graves of the gallant men who gave their lives for the independence of their country—flags placed by members of the American Legion, who have

so good reason to remember those who served before them, and in whose footsteps they so gladly followed when they were needed. The little flags may fade and droop in wind and weather through the years, but they symbolize remembrance—revitalized as each year comes again—remembrance and gratitude that never fade, from those who live to enjoy freedom won at such a cost.

The following list of Revolutionary War dead buried in Hamden cemeteries was compiled in 1934 by James S. Hedden, for the G. A. R.:

REVOLUTIONARY DEAD IN HAMDEN CEMETERIES

Hamden Plains

Cpl. Rev. Caleb Alling	Eliada Hitchcock
Capt. Charles Alling	Capt. Hezekiah Johnson
Ichabod Alling	Timothy Leek
Timothy Andrews	Capt. David Leek
John Bassett	Jabez Munson
Joseph Benham	Levi Munson
Lt. Elisha Booth	Joseph Tuttle
Enos Bradley	Amos Warner
Nathaniel Crittenden	Benjamin Warner
Daniel Dorman	Benjamin Warner
Cpl. Moses Ford	Ebenezer Warner
John Gorham	Capt. Javan Woodin
David Hitchcock	

Mount Carmel

Aaron Bradley	Hezekiah Dickerman
Lt. Amos Bradley	Lt. Isaac Dickerman, Gen.
Amos Bradley	Wadsworth's Brigade
Daniel Bradley	James Dickerman
David Bradley	Capt. Jonathan Dickerman, 1st
Simeon Bristol	Sgt. Samuel Dickerman
Waite Chatterton	Joel Hough
Ensign Amos Dickerman	Amos Peck
Chauncey Dickerman	Joel Todd

Centerville

Capt. Asa Atwater	Capt. Stephen Goodyear
Enos Atwater	Titus Goodyear
Capt. Jacob Atwater	Capt. Alling Ives
Capt. Samuel Atwater	Elam Ives
Hezekiah Bassett	Ezra Ives
Timothy Bassett	Capt. Jonathan Ives
Joel Cooper	Hezekiah Warner
Capt. Jesse Goodyear	Samuel Warner

Whitneyville

Amos Bassett	Capt. Moses Gilbert
Capt. Stephen Ford	Capt. James Peck

State Street

Abraham Cooper	John Potter
Cpl. Joseph Gilbert	Timothy Potter
Lt. Samuel Humiston	

Hamden Census

Josiah Mansfield	Amos Potter
David Hitchcock	

*Killed at the Invasion of New Haven**Graves Not Found*

Aaron Bradley	Eldad Parker
Joseph Dorman	Asa Todd (descendant of
Michael Gilbert	Christopher Todd of the
Sgt. Ezekiel Hotchkiss	Mill)
John Kennedy	Elisha Tuttle
Isaac Pardee	Silas Woodin
	Samuel Woodin

Capt. John Gilbert was buried at Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven.

A TRAGEDY AT THE MILL POND

The Mill Pond at Todd's Mill was known as Sabine's Pond, and Lieutenant Colonel Hezekiah Sabine's house stood beside it. Here the wife of the pastor of the White Haven Church on New Haven Green, Jonathan Edwards the younger, was accidentally drowned in 1782. Two reports of the tragedy, one by the president of Yale College, Dr. Ezra Stiles, the other appearing in the *Connecticut Gazette*, illustrate the austerity of the funeral ritual and the verbosity of the daily newspaper. President Stiles made the following notations in his Diary:

JUNE 24, 1782. This day Mrs. Edwards, consort of the Rev. Jonathan Edwards of this town, was drowned, her horse with her, along in a chaise plunging into a mill pond two miles from town. She was taken up an hour after, the water 15 ft. deep. AE. 34. JUNE 25. This afternoon we attended the funeral of Mrs. Edwards. The corpse was carried to the meetinghouse where was a crowd assembled, among others eleven ministers, seven of whom had lost their wives. Mr. Whittlesey made the first prayer, the 89th psalm was sung, ("Think on feeble man"); I preached on Philip 1, 2 ("For me to live is Christ, to die is gain"); Mr. Street prayed, the funeral thought was sung, and a blessing concluded the solemnity. The procession then moved from the meetinghouse to the burying ground,—first the bearers who were civilians, not ministers, then the corpse, the mourners, the ministers, the sisters of the church and the females, and the males. A very large body. Mr. Edwards spoke at the grave.

The *Connecticut Gazette* reported the funeral obsequies in this manner:

NEW HAVEN. Last Monday morning about 9 o'clock, Mrs. Mary Edwards, consort of Rev. Mr.

Jonathan Edwards of this town, was drowned in Mr. Sabine's mill pond. . . . Her funeral was attended yesterday, when an animated and exceedingly tender sermon was preached to a very numerous and solemn audience, by the Rev. Dr. Stiles. Her remains were followed to the grave by the most numerous procession ever seen in this town; which gave an ocular demonstration that she lived desired and she departed universally lamented.

THE SEPARATION FROM NEW HAVEN

As the Revolutionary War was closing, the parishes of New Haven became more than ever restive to be set aside as separate towns, and New Haven herself was not in an unreceptive frame of mind to a plea for such separation, for she had begun to feel her parishes to be burdensome in many ways, chiefly for the support of bridges in Mount Carmel and North Haven.

The first parish to take active steps toward separation from New Haven was East Haven, in 1780. Special agents representing New Haven opposed in town meeting the application of Amity and Bethany for town privileges; but when North Haven and Mount Carmel, after conferring together about the advisability of asking to be set up as a distinct town, also followed their sister parishes in requesting separation, the town voted its consent to four petitions, February 12, 1781.* A committee of the town of New Haven, appointed to report a plan for the division of the town, advised "that the societies of North Haven and Mount Carmel be made into a separate and distinct town, and that the

* Amity became Woodbridge, the name chosen in honor of the minister of the first church there.

estate, stock, soldiers in the Continental Army, town poor, bridges and other burdens, etc., be equitably divided."

On April 12, Bazel Munson of Mount Carmel and Jonathan Dayton of North Haven, as agents for the two parishes, reported the New Haven vote for the separation "under certain conditions." They asked that the new town be called Mount Haven, and that they receive a proportionate share of "town stores, Continental men and all other profits in which they have been mutually interested heretofore." This request was denied by the General Assembly. A New Haven town meeting, held on December 17, 1781, appointed a new committee on the division, still planning North Haven and Mount Carmel to be one town. On January 16, 1782, the Mount Carmel Society voted for the united town, on condition that three fifths of the town meetings be held at North Haven and the other two fifths at Mount Carmel.

New Haven was incorporated as a town in 1784, with Roger Sherman its first mayor. A year later a petition to the General Assembly was entered for a separate town of Hamden, separate also from North Haven. The petition, signed by Theophilus Goodyear and John Hubbard, and dated April 18, 1785, called attention to the differences of interest between farmers and the commercial class within New Haven,

that many of your Memorialists are very remotely situated from the Place where the business of said Town of New Haven is usually transacted, and of course but few of them can have any part in the directions thereof, that they are universally farmers, habituated to a very different Mode of living, thinking of management of Business from the Governing num-

bers generally present at the town meetings in said town they being of the trading Interest, Whose Plans and Ideas are generally so totally diverse from those of your Memorialists that this circumstance is often the source of uneasiness and jealousy and consequent Discord.

The grand list was stated to be about £11,000.

Although the General Assembly did not grant the petition, a New Haven town meeting on March 28 had already voted favorably ("by almost unanimous vote") for a town to be formed of Mount Carmel Parish joined with the boundaries of the Seventeenth Company of the Second Regiment, "they taking their part and proportion of the benefits and burdens of the Town according to their list."

Another petition to the General Assembly was made in 1786. The differences in viewpoint between the farmers and the merchants were again emphasized, yet not in a spirit of jealousy.

These disadvantages they (the petitioners) do not mention under any idea of criminating the citizens of New Haven, whose friendly good intentions they fully confide in, or of charging the occasion of them to their accounts. Your Petitioners consider their own prosperity as most intimately connected with that of the city of New Haven, and would have been reluctant to a separation from them did not such a measure coincide with the wishes of the city and the pleasure of the rest of the Town, which pleasure has been repeatedly manifested by their votes.

This time the petitioners were not disappointed, and Hamden was constituted a separate town in May, 1786.

Before the actual incorporation of the new town, local men of prominence consulted on the choice of a name. Amasa Bradley, one of the Bradley family which had been influential in Mount Carmel since 1729, and who served as a selectman of Hamden seven times between 1796 and 1811, is credited with having proposed the name of Hamden. He suggested the name of John Hampden, the Puritan patriot of Oliver Cromwell's time (who, despite the difference in spelling, pronounced the name with the *p* silent). William Bradley, Amasa's earliest ancestor in America, had served in the army of Cromwell, and the name of John Hampden meant much to the Bradley family. Though he had been dead for 143 years, killed in battle in the revolution under Charles I, Hampden's qualities of character and achievement had been so well remembered in this Puritan colony as to make his name appropriate for a new town. Besides, he had been one of the twelve men to whom, in 1635, the Saybrook grant had been made.

John Hampden was born in Buckinghamshire, England, in 1594. His father died when he was a child, and he became owner of a good estate. He was educated at Oxford, and served as member of Parliament from 1621 until his death in 1643.

Of him his biographer Lord Nugent has said: "The celebrated Puritan leader is an almost solitary instance of a great man who neither sought nor shunned greatness, who found glory only because glory lay in the plain path of duty. . . . Public service, perilous, arduous, delicate was required; and to every service the intellect and the courage of this wonderful man were found fully equal. He became a debater of the first

order, a most dextrous manager of the House of Commons, a negotiator, a soldier."

David Hume, the English historian, said: "John Hampden acquired by his spirit and courage universal popularity throughout the nation, and has merited great renown with posterity for the bold stand which he made in defense of the laws and liberties of his country."

He refused to pay the ship money tax (the small amount of 20 s. in his case) because the principle involved was so vitally important. His prosecution became the greatest controversy ever held between the people and the Crown. Although seven of the twelve judges sided against him, nevertheless the connection between the rights of property and the parliamentary system became, through this action, firmly established in the minds of all the people. They honored Hampden as a popular patriot, largely because of his public-spirited stand in refusing to pay the ship money tax, but also because they recognized the other qualities of greatness in his character—his modesty, his dislike of pretense, his brave contempt for danger. He was an eloquent speaker, even-tempered, always courteous and well-mannered.

Of the period after the trial, Thomas Macaulay said:

The person of Hampden was now scarcely safe. He knew that the eye of a tyrant (Charles I) was upon him. He was determined to leave England. Beyond the Atlantic a few of the persecuted Puritans had formed in the wilderness of Connecticut a settlement which has since become a prosperous commonwealth, and which, in spite of the lapse of time and of the change of government, still retains something of the character given to it by its first founders. Lord Saye and Lord Brooke were the original projectors of the

scheme of emigration. Hampden had been early consulted respecting it. He was now, it appears, desirous to withdraw himself beyond the reach of oppressors who were bent on punishing his manful resistance to their tyranny. He was accompanied by his kinsman Oliver Cromwell, over whom he possessed great influence; they took passage on a vessel and were actually on board, when an order of council prohibited the sailing.

Though John Hampden was prevented from coming to Connecticut, both his influence and his name were fittingly planted here; and the founders of the town may have idealistically believed that those qualities which made the man great could, when possessed by the town, bring it distinction through practice of the same virtues.

Part II

New Roots In Old Soil

PART II

NEW ROOTS IN OLD SOIL

THE NEW GOVERNMENT

TO sum up the important features of the Act of Incorporation of the town of Hamden, its boundaries were to be those of the Parish of Mount Carmel plus the area outlined as that of the Seventeenth Military Company, Second Regiment of the State Militia, lying between Mount Carmel Parish and the city of New Haven. The newly formed town was given the liberty to elect or appoint the new town officers, levy taxes and collect them, and transact all business proper to a town. With a committee of three chosen to decide just and reasonable proportions, the townspeople were to receive their part of New Haven town stock; to pay their part of New Haven's debts already incurred, in proportion to their tax list; to take over the charge and support of their part of the town poor; to bear their share of the support of bridges and highways used by both towns; and to pay taxes already laid in New Haven, with the "overplus" being paid back to them. They were also to have a representative in the General Assembly of the State.

The typical way of Yankee dickering finds the town fathers agreeing to the continued use by New Haven of stone from East and West Rocks, in return for Hamden's continued privilege of catching fish, clams, and oysters from the seashore.

Five days' written notice of the first town meeting was given by signs posted, one on the central signpost

and the other at Heil Peck's house, which was at the southeast corner of what is now Whitney and Tuttle Avenues, and later known as the Hezekiah Brockett place. The "admitted inhabitants" were summoned to meet at 1 P.M. on the third Thursday in June, 1786, for the purpose of electing officers who should serve until December.

The Mount Carmel meetinghouse was designated as the place of meeting in true New England tradition; and it was entirely appropriate that it should be held there, not only from the practical fact that it was perhaps the only auditorium large enough for such a gathering, but in theory too, it was proper to believe that from the meetinghouse would emanate the kind of honesty that was the same for pious, personal, and political life. The clergy, who so frequently spoke from the pulpit on political issues of the day, may oft-times have been mistaken in their views, but they were never wrong in believing that political action should be in accord with the basic laws of God.

The call was signed by Simeon Bristol, who was named as moderator of the meeting. It is interesting to speculate on the sort of man that Simeon Bristol must have been—surely a man of commanding presence, a leader who had gained the respect and confidence of his neighbors, outstanding for firmness and judgment; for he was chosen to direct the first faltering steps of the new government. He was forty-seven years of age, with a wife and six children. Records also show him to have been a slave owner.

The first town meeting was duly held, and Simeon Bristol was elected town clerk (a position which he held for fifteen years), as well as one of the five selectmen,

the others being John Hubbard, Asa Goodyear, Samuel Dickerman, and Moses Gilbert. His son, George Augustus Bristol, was chosen one of two constables. There were ten highway surveyors—among them Samuel Dorman, Caleb Doolittle, and Hezekiah Bassett; and Jonathan Dickerman and Stephen Ford were made fence viewers. "Listers" (probably registrars of voters or census takers), chosen from the various parts of the town, were Samuel Bellamy, Jonathan Ives, Jr., Benjamin Gaylord, Jr., Stephen Goodyear, Job Todd, Samuel Humiston, Benjamin Woodin, and Joel Goodyear.

There were four grand jurors; and among the four tithingmen was Sackett Gilbert, a Sackett descendant; five "key-keepers" were probably pound keepers. On the committee to divide responsibilities with New Haven, were Simeon Bristol, John Hubbard, Theophilus Goodyear, Isaac Dickerman, and Elisha Booth. The town government, like that of New Haven, theoretically was split up among a group of committees, but in practice the authority was vested preponderantly in the selectmen, who were represented on most of the committees.

The date for annual town meetings was set for the second Monday of December in each year, and notices were to be posted on the town signpost, at the two taverns in Mount Carmel, and also at the public house on the road in the Plains.

Hamden had become the 167th town in Connecticut, the state which led the nation in its practice of government by the people. It was now one of the Connecticut family of little indestructible republics, which, however much they might be subject to the control of the General Assembly, yet had large powers of local control.

When Governor Henry Harrison spoke in Hamden one hundred years later, he said:

Are all of you aware, do you fully understand what a peculiar organization is the organization of a town in the State of Connecticut? By the act of the General Assembly which made you a town, you were made in your municipal capacity, a little indestructible republic having great powers of local government which can never be taken away from you. There is no state and no country in this world where the principle of Home Rule or the principle of government by the people, is so radically carried out and so thoroughly protected by the Constitutional defenses as it is in this town of Hamden, and in every other town in the State of Connecticut.

You do not hold your rights, your most important ones, at the pleasure of the General Assembly, at the pleasure of the State government, or of any other power on earth. Your right to representation in the General Assembly cannot be taken away from you by any power; your right to your town meeting cannot be taken from you; your right to elect your own selectmen, your town clerk, your grand jurors, your officers, your constable, your justice of the peace; these rights are yours so long as the Constitution of the state remains as it is. The existence of this town cannot be destroyed. The General Assembly cannot abolish the town of Hamden, or annex it to any other town.

Simeon E. Baldwin, a later governor of Connecticut, also spoke on this anniversary program, and he said in part:

Local self-government is the right of every considerable body of men living together, to tax themselves and to regulate as they best please, the general order of their lives and their relations to each other.

Hamden left New Haven in 1786 because her inhabitants thought they were better able to manage their local affairs themselves, than if they had the interfer-

ence of voters on the edge of Branford. That they were right, your prosperity and our prosperity in New Haven alike testify. There can be no effectual government by town meeting unless it is held within easy distance of every voter. And this lesson the older towns of Connecticut learned early. It has made Connecticut the land of steady habits and strong local attachments.

We love the town we live in, and it is a sentiment always to be encouraged. We love our town as we love our state, our native land, each loved and all loved because they make us as free as we are strong; because they make it possible for a people to grow great without ceasing to be able to govern themselves.

And so, Hamden's first town meeting had been the gathering together of the inhabitants, where every man was his neighbor's equal—free to stand up unafraid to express his opinions. It is the truest sort of democracy, not available elsewhere in the life of the community—certainly not in social or religious circles. Town meeting is truly the “sovereign people,” for it is the only form of government in which the prime unit acts in its own behalf. The citizen does not delegate his power to a representative when he rises in town meeting and says, “I want a new road”—he is speaking for himself, and he is not paid to do it. He acts only when there is something important to be decided. In such a system every citizen must be politically responsible, whereas in representative government, like the Federal system, a citizen considers his responsibility ended when he casts a ballot for someone to represent him.

It is in line with New England character that a man wants to make his own decisions, and not to be told how to do it. If a matter is presented to a town meeting, and seems to be entirely agreeable to everyone present, it

would nevertheless be emphatically rejected if the suggestion were to be made that a neighboring town had been satisfied with it. Someone would surely rise and say, "They aren't telling us how to run our business."

A special Hamden town meeting was held on November 16, 1786, at which the only business was to name George Augustus Bristol tax collector, and the selectmen were empowered to divide the town into highway districts.

The first annual meeting was adjourned from December 11 to December 18, at twelve o'clock. Selectmen chosen at this time were John Hubbard, Samuel Dickerman, Moses Gilbert, Theophilus Goodyear, and Abraham Alling; and Jesse Goodyear was elected treasurer. The first tax rate laid in Hamden was 4 d. on the pound, and John Hubbard, the collector, was paid £10 sterling from the town treasury for his services. This tax yielded £173, 13 s., 6 d.

In 1790, the rate being one penny halfpenny, the income from taxes dropped to £67, 4 s., 6 d. President Ezra Stiles of Yale, writing in his diary in 1791, said: "Lodged at Squire Munson's in Carmel. He is £150 in the list, pays £12 or £15 tax per annum. Highest in the List in Carmel." President Stiles, who, during his incumbency at Yale from 1777 to 1796 was renowned as the best scholar of his time in New England; was the son of Dr. Isaac Stiles, the pastor of the North Haven Church for thirty-six years.* President Stiles visited Hamden often, not only in his capacity as a leading divine but to visit his mother, who lived after

* Dr. Isaac Stiles's 36-year pastorate was succeeded in 1760 by Dr. Benjamin Trumbull.

her husband's death with her daughters, Mrs. Bazel Munson and Mrs. Lemuel Bradley, both of Mount Carmel.

The town of New Haven had been all too well aware of the burden and expense of roads and bridges, and largely for that reason was willing to permit the formation of the surrounding towns. As soon as 1787 Hamden was quite cognizant of this burden, and voted that "taking into consideration the number and extent of the bridges within Hamden, and the numerous roads, length and extreme badness thereof," if they took care of only those within their own bounds it would be their full responsibility, and that they would take no further burden of any that used to lie upon New Haven before their separation, unless the General Assembly "affixed it" upon them.

And once more, too, they were Yankees willing to make a deal, when they voted to pay "all arrearages of State taxes due from the poor inhabitants thereof previous to separation from New Haven, which have not been abated nor can be collected," *provided* that the towns of New Haven, East Haven, and North Haven would do the same for their respective inhabitants.

When the Constitutional Convention met at Philadelphia in June, 1787, the stamp of Connecticut was placed forever upon the governmental framework of the United States. Roger Sherman proposed the plan which was accepted with regard to representation in the lower legislative branch based upon the population of the several states; but his further suggestion, still based on the Connecticut model—that every state, however small, should have a vote in the Upper House—was

rejected. But further debate often brought "the Connecticut Plan" to the attention of the delegates. The committee, formed of one delegate from each state, which at last adopted this "Plan," had, it is true, only one member from Connecticut, but two other members—Ingersoll of Pennsylvania and Baldwin of Georgia—were natives of Connecticut, and were familiar with the successful 150 years in which Connecticut government had been in practice.

A town meeting was held in Hamden on the second Monday in November, 1787, following a recommendation from the General Assembly, for the purpose of choosing a delegate to the State Convention in Hartford which was to pass upon the adoption or rejection of the proposed Federal Constitution. Hamden voted emphatically against it—5 yeas and 73 nays—and appointed Theophilus Goodyear as the Convention delegate.

Speculation as to why Hamden so strongly opposed the Constitution in spite of the fact that, as a state, Connecticut was one of the first to approve it, may lead to the thought that economic reasons were heavily involved—that farmers were in general at that time a disgruntled group, and Hamden was an agricultural town. Those who favored the Constitution were the merchants, manufacturers, private creditors, and holders of public securities; and opposition to it was chiefly from farmers everywhere.

The popular belief that every man voted and that the majority ruled, in this period, was not true. There was a distinct difference between an elector of Hamden and a freeman, who was an elector of the state. An "admitted inhabitant" was a householder who owned property and was a godly man, who took oath that he

was neither Jew, Quaker, nor atheist; and when admitted by majority vote of those properly qualified in town meeting, he could take part in local affairs, join in the election of local officials, and vote for deputies to the General Court.

A "freeman" was an admitted inhabitant who had been chosen either by the General Court or by a magistrate authorized to make freemen. He was considered by such to be capable of taking part in the affairs of the Colony and later, of the state. He was eligible to election as a deputy or he could be a magistrate, and he could vote for the higher officials.

The admitted inhabitants ran local town affairs but the freemen—probably less than a third of the admitted inhabitants—controlled the higher government of colony and then state.

Dr. Henry Bronson, in his *Chapters on the Early Government of Connecticut*, said:

The freemen of Connecticut under the Constitution were a kind of popular aristocracy, holding a midway station between the plebian and patrician classes. Supported seemingly by both, they became the trusted pillars of the Commonwealth. Evidently they were not numerous. . . . The facts indicate that only a small proportion, certainly a minority of those of 21 years and over were freemen; doubtless because they did not desire the honors if they must also bear the burdens.

The wording of Hamden records in regard to the admission of freemen varied in different years, but they appear to have been "admitted to be freemen of the town of Hamden" upon certificate from the selectmen. On September 19, 1786, the following persons were "admitted to be freemen of this Corporation": Joseph

Pardy, Levi Bradley, Asa Goodyear, Jr., and Medad Alling.

The first volume of the Hamden town records contains, besides the accounts of the town meetings, the lists of elected officers and the votes on town affairs, many pages devoted to the admission of freemen, births, marriages, and deaths, notices relating to cattle which had been impounded as strays, and the brands by which their owners identified them, and regulations as to geese and animals on the roads and the commons.

The first land record, dated July, 1786, is of the conveyance of five rods of land from Anthony Thomson, Jr., to Joel Goodyear, witnessed by Samuel Atwater and Simeon Bristol, the latter of whom was justice of the peace as well as recording clerk.

In regard to the "charge and support of the poor" which the town had agreed to assume, great pains were taken to "warn out" of its borders all persons without visible means of support who might, if they stayed, become town responsibilities. Those who unquestionably were entitled to the town's keep were "set up to public vendue"* and auctioned off to the highest bidder, who must give bond that he would not abuse those in his care; or they were placed in suitable homes under supervision of the selectmen. In January, 1795, a town meeting voted to ask the New Haven County Court of Common Pleas to call together the authorities of the several towns in the county to consider building a county workhouse. In the following September, Simeon Bristol, Isaac Dickerman, and Caleb Alling were named to confer with the selectmen and report to the annual town meeting on a plan "for the more easy and comfortable

* Outcry.

support of the poor of this town." This was a period when the condition of those who were unfortunate enough to be town charges anywhere was shockingly bad.

The New Haven Work House bylaws of 1792 provided that any assistant or justice of the peace resident within the town might send to the workhouse, for not more than three months,

rogues, disorderly persons, all runaway stubborn servants and children, common drunkards, common night walkers, pilferers, all persons who neglect their callings, misspend earnings and do not provide for their families, and all persons under distraction, unfit to be at large, and not cared for by their friends or relatives.

The poor, the helpless, the criminal, and the insane, all were housed indiscriminately together, and the master of the house had the authority, with the approval of his superiors, to punish them with "fetters or shackles, by whipping on the naked body not more than 10 stripes at a time, or with close confinement without food or drink." Small wonder, then, that the inhabitants of Hamden should seek a way of making the support of the poor "more easy and comfortable"!

Children frequently were indentured or "bound out" for a term of years. In 1789 Eunice Doolittle of Hamden bound her four-year-old son to Rhoda Sperry of Cheshire for a period of ten years, "all of which time his said mistress he shall faithfully serve, her secrets keep, and everywhere gladly obey, nor absent himself from his said mistress's services night or day, but in all things conduct himself as a good and faithful apprentice or servant." The mother was obliged to furnish all

“necessary apparel,” and the mistress “necessary food, washing, lodging, and drink, and provision for him in sickness and in health.”

Another similar agreement was much briefer in wording:

Hamden, Apr. 24, 1798. This may certify that I, William Dutton, of Cheshire, agree to keep Mrs. Hotchkiss's youngest child Augustine, from this time until the first Monday of December next, and find him his vituals and clothes, and he is to be as well clothed at the end of that time as I take him.

Javin Woodin was a grandson of Matthew Gilbert. His name appears in land records in 1790, and somewhat later he acquired from James Bassett 12 acres, dwelling, barn and shop, situated north of the Matthew Gilbert estate. His old account books carry the record of town charges which he “bid off” to care for.

1795. Miss Hotchkiss has span 3 runs and six nots of linen yarn, ten nots of cotton. She made part of a pair of trousers. She spun 2 run and 8 nots—30 nots of thread.

Miss Ball staid at my house three weeks wanting one day.

Contracted to support the town poor for the year 1800 for two hundred and fifteen dollars.

This last item was his first to be entered in American money. The first Hamden town records to mention the “dollar” as American currency was in 1799 when a six-mill tax was laid. The amount collected was \$253.65 for that year.

Javin Woodin's next entry was, “Contracted with Mr. Moses Potter to keep Mrs. Deming and her children for two dollars a week.” Whatever number of

children Mrs. Deming may have had, it is easy to believe that \$2 a week did not allow them anything beyond the barest necessities.

In 1791, President Stiles stated that the population of Hamden was 1,427, of New Haven 4,510, North Haven 1,259, and Cheshire 2,230.

A few of the townspeople, headed by Captain John Gill, made application in 1788 to the General Assembly for annexation to North Haven, but a town meeting voted to oppose such secession "so far as the same affects this town."

It was not as easy for Hamden to set up the machinery of her separate government as it had been for New Haven and other shore and river towns of Connecticut which began as villages with a common center—church, market, military organization, and town meeting. Hamden began as outlying farms adjacent to the New Haven center, to which the inhabitants journeyed the long distance for their necessary interests. But they had no social or neighborhood activities in which to become well acquainted with each other and to begin the foundations for a coöperative society. The town of Hamden faced a slower and more difficult task of putting government into proper action than most of her neighboring towns had experienced.

THE MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

After the formation of Mount Carmel Parish in 1757, the people of that section enjoyed certain village activities, centering about Joel Munson's mill, the Belamy tavern, and the church, which was the natural place, although not geographically central, for holding

the town meetings. After the unfortunate dismissal of Pastor Nathaniel Sherman in 1770, there had been no settled minister for twelve years, although the Ecclesiastical Society met regularly and maintained some church activities, including the baptism of 107 children by ministers who came long distances on horseback from other towns to perform such services, administer the communion, conduct funerals, and comfort the sick and sorrowing. The pulpit was supplied for Sunday preaching by men from Yale College. The college tutors were more often than not Congregational ministers—61 out of 110 in the first hundred years of Yale's history (1701-1801).

In 1783, soon after the close of the Revolutionary War, Joshua Perry was called to the pastorate of the Mount Carmel Church, and was serving his third term when Hamden was incorporated, so his parish was then no longer an ecclesiastical part of New Haven.

Both the war and the new Federal Constitution affected the manner of raising money for the maintenance of churches. In 1784, the state granted to all religious bodies freedom from paying taxes toward the support of the Congregational church; but people who were not connected with any church were still compelled to pay them. Exemption from the payment of this tax was granted locally to anyone who attended services elsewhere; and many property owners chose to pay no tax to the Mount Carmel church. Jonathan Dickerman, Bazel Munson, and Samuel and Jacob Atwater were first of an increasing number of larger property owners to withdraw from the church, which by 1790 had not enough funds to maintain it, and the pastorate was closed.

For ten years, again there was no settled pastor, and the young men from Yale and the ministers of the neighboring churches conducted the services. By 1800, when the membership had fallen below one hundred, a fund of \$8,000 was miraculously raised by subscription "for the support of the ministry," and Asa Lyman was called to the pastorate. The pastors of this church for one reason or another served brief encumbencies, Mr. Lyman for only three years. For another three years the pulpit was filled by supply ministers, then John Hyde was the pastor from 1806 to 1811, and after him, Eliphalet Coleman until 1825.

CONGREGATIONS ON THE PLAINS

The southern end of the town—the district which had belonged to the Seventeenth Company of the Second Regiment, was occupied by many families connected with the Fair Haven Church on the New Haven Green, but the inconvenience of attending services there, especially in bad weather, prompted a group to hold religious services in their own neighborhood. President Ezra Stiles made the following notations in his diary:

Feb. 28, 1784. Rode out 4 miles to the Plains where I find there are about 60 families who have agreed to set up winter preaching; they began this winter for the first time, and hold their meetings at Gov'n. Matthew Gilbert's. North of the city line up to Carmel line, & from the Mill River to the top of the West Rock, or the dividend line of Amity [the present Woodbridge], being a tract about 3 miles square, or $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and 3 miles wide. On this tract we counted 71 families down to Mr. Hubbard's stone house, and including all to the south end of the Rock and city line, one hundred families.

Feb. 29 Lord's Day. The coldest day in the year. I preached all day at Mr. Gilbert's at the Plains, 4 miles northwest of the College.

Jan. 26, 1790. There are about 100 families belonging to the congregation for divine worship and upheld it for 2 years or more, about 4 miles off at the Plains. They have this day applied to me again to assist them in gathering a Congregational Church there.

When Captain Caleb Mix's house was suggested as a more convenient place of meeting—it was just north of the present Hamden Plains Methodist Church—violent opposition was evidenced on the part of some, who preferred to accept the invitation of Caleb Alling 3d to meet thereafter at his home. So a separate group, which subsequently became known as "Strict Congregationalists," was established by Caleb Alling 3d; and it remained active for twenty-six years, notwithstanding the fact that he was imprisoned for refusing to pay taxes to the Fair Haven Church. Members of this group bore names that are still common in Hamden Plains: Dorman, Warner, Munson, Gorham, and Woodin.

Caleb Alling 3d was a selectman of Hamden in 1791-93, and again in 1797 and 1798, serving in that capacity at the same time that he was leader of the "Strict Congregationalists." How reminiscent of New Haven Colony's early government, to find a man entrusted with authority in both church and state!

Those who met at Captain Mix's for worship, organized the Hamden East Plains Society (the present Whitneyville Congregational Church). Erection of the church building was begun in 1793, on what is now the property of the Hamden Plains Methodist Church at the corner of Dixwell Avenue and Church Street, and

it was completed in two years. It was a brown, barnlike structure, unbeautiful and unheated. The audience room was bare except for high, straight-backed seats. A later pastor, in speaking of it, said: "It stood on a cold, bleak place; if the wind blows anywhere it is sure to blow on Hamden Plains." Until 1822 there was no heat in the church, and when the first stove was set up, it was bitterly opposed by many on the ground "that the churchgoing zeal of the people was better cultivated by means of a cold church." Perhaps the old-fashioned "hell-fire and brimstone" sermons were warmth enough! There were no lights, and at evening services people carried their own candles.

On August 18, 1795, an Ecclesiastical Council, composed of ministers and delegates from New Haven, West Haven, Mount Carmel, and Woodbridge, voted to accept the group as a sister church. Twelve people were the charter members, and three men—Moses Ford, Jabez Turner, and Timothy Andrews—joined that day.

The covenant which they signed showed no spirit of discord with the New Haven churches, only a desire for greater convenience in attending services:

We agree to be established as a regular distinct church for the greater convenience of attending gospel worship and ordinances. We profess ourselves in charity with the regular churches and standing ministry. . . . We mutually ask forgiveness of one another for everything which has been unworthy of the Christian profession; fervently praying for the spirit and presence of Christ in the present transaction, and all our future proceedings. . . . We agree and covenant with each other to walk in fellowship as a church of Christ, acknowledging Him as our only Head, and taking His instruction for our guide in faith and practise, in worship and discipline. We promise to counsel and ad-

monish one another, as it becometh saints, and with Christian humility to be subject one to another.

So fifteen members were the nucleus who began that day to lay the foundations of a church; and in no more fitting way could they have insured the success of its future than by the baptismal service which they observed, in which nineteen infants were baptized. What matter if the meetinghouse was plain and bare—it must have been a scene of great beauty from the presence of those children.

The church's Ecclesiastical Society was incorporated in May, 1795, and their tax was set as 4 d. in the pound. In June they named the school committee: Amos Bassett, Asa Gilbert, Charles Alling, Stephen Ford, and John Hubbard.

The next problem was the search for a pastor. Sometimes a visiting preacher conducted the worship, and more often they depended upon one of their own members for this leadership. In the course of the next two years, Abraham Alling gradually became the one who led their prayers and songs and read sermons written by others and, in time, of his own composition. He was given a unanimous call to serve in the capacity of pastor. He was forty-four years of age and occupied a small farm three miles beyond the church. He was one of Hamden's five selectmen in 1787-89—once more a civic leader was favored to guide the religious life of a community.

At first he refused the offer of the pastorate, because the salary, £60 lawful money, seemed too small, but after thoughtful consideration he accepted it. Meanwhile, alas, more members left the group while he was

hesitating, and attached themselves to Caleb Alling's flock, making the second disaffection in the Congregational ranks.

For twenty-five years Abraham Alling tilled the soil and also served in his Master's vineyard. As so many of his parish were also farmers, he had a double bond of interest with them, for he could intelligently discuss the important matters pertaining to crops; and on their part, the church members, who took their religion so seriously, could join him in exploring difficult questions of theology. In those days people were not ashamed to discuss their religion openly—morals, death, and eternal life were of vital and supreme importance to them.

He was respected as a preacher, and particularly praised for his "happy manner of conducting funerals." On an unusually wintry Sunday—the congregation pinched with cold in the unheated church—the pastor, after the lengthy preliminary service, announced the text of his sermon from the 147th Psalm: "Who can stand before His cold?" There was then no such thing as a short sermon, but this one ended abruptly when Mr. Alling, wringing and rubbing his hands, said, "Dear brethren, I should be glad to say more on this deeply interesting subject, but who can stand before His cold?"

Reverend Mr. Marvin of Woodbridge once told of remembering Abraham Alling's sermons,

which made an impression not soon to be forgotten as to their length! Dividing his discourse into two heads, he would preach until he reached the 23rdly for the first division of his subject, and to the 16thly for the second; after which he would come *by way of application* for some 15 minutes to the *conclusion*, which took 10 minutes more.

In 1800, a committee of the Society was appointed "to seal up the windows in the Territ and collar them black." No logical reason can be imagined for this action—surely not due to the fact that at the same meeting at which the committee was named, it was voted to engage a suitable person to conduct a singing school two nights a week, for which they taxed themselves \$16!

An interesting study in relationship is the Alling family: Caleb Alling, 1694-1756, married three times. The first wife left no children; the second (who was Caleb Mix's daughter, Thankful) had sons Asa and Charles, and one named Caleb, 2d, died in infancy; the third wife named her son Caleb, 3d.

Asa's son Abraham was brought up in Hamden by his childless uncle Charles. Abraham meant to go to Yale to study for the ministry, but his early marriage prevented it. Here the picture becomes somewhat complicated—for Ezra Dorman's three sisters married Charles, Caleb, and Abraham Alling, respectively! So in thinking of the two Congregational groups, it appears that Caleb was not only uncle to Abraham, but also brother-in-law!

During Abraham Alling's ministry, there were eighty-one members added to the church, and some of his pastorate was prosperous, but he suffered from the all-too-common cross of the pastors of his day; a controversy arose over church discipline, in which he was accused of being partial, and he sorrowfully resigned his pulpit in 1822.

EPISCOPAL WORSHIP

The end of the eighteenth century was marked by great religious fervor and the founding of many church

groups. Concurrently with the Congregational activity in Hamden Plains was the establishment in Mount Carmel of the Grace Episcopal Church, one of the earliest parishes in the Diocese of Connecticut.

After Samuel Seabury had been chosen by Anglican clergymen at the Glebe House in Woodbury (Connecticut) in 1783, he was made the first American bishop by consecration in Scotland in 1785, and the Episcopal churches gained heart and strength to worship in their differing way to the Congregationalists.

Bishop Seabury (who had graduated from Yale in 1748) attended the Yale Commencement exercises in 1784. When Congregationalist President Ezra Stiles was urged to invite the bishop to sit among the distinguished guests upon the platform, he testily and quite ungraciously said, "We are *all* bishops here, but if a chair can be found for Mr. Seabury he may *have* it." It was nearly 125 years later that sweet retribution was accomplished, when a portrait of Bishop Seabury was hung among the other illustrious Yale graduates in the Yale Dining Hall. The oak frame was carved at the top in the likeness of the bishop's mitre. And so, in time, a Congregational president's rebuff was at last avenged!

At a convention held in Philadelphia, the Protestant Episcopal Church was established in 1789, while at the same time the Federal Government was being inaugurated in New York.

There may have been some impetus to the establishment of Episcopal churches at this time because George Washington was an Episcopalian. In 1793 he became a Freemason, and Masonry too may have become more popular thereby. Day Spring Lodge of Hamden Free-

masons was organized in 1794 in Samuel Bellamy's tavern. The charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut to Samuel Bellamy (first master), Ezra Kimberly, George Bristol, Levi Tuttle, Amasa Bradley, Leverett Kimberly, Tully Crosby, Simeon Goodyear, and Job Munson.

Samuel Bellamy, always active (as was his father before him) in Hamden affairs, had become a Hamden selectman in 1793, and served five terms as such, up to 1801.

Two other reasons for the formation of an Episcopal group at this time were that many Mount Carmel people left the Congregationalist fold after the law concerning compulsory payment of taxes to it was changed, thereby releasing them from membership; and when the Congregational pastorate was closed in 1790, they were easily attracted by the extremely zealous leaders of the Episcopal church, who had for more than sixty years been aggressively decrying the ecclesiastical usages prevalent in the New England Congregational churches.

The warrant which Ezra Kimberly was "commanded" by Simeon Bristol, justice of the peace, to serve upon Hamden Episcopalians, read as follows:

By authority of the State of Connecticut you are hereby commanded to warn all the inhabitants that live within the parish of Mt. Carmel in said Hamden, who belong to the Episcopal Church (so called) and ordinarily attend public worship according to the forms, rites and ceremonies of said church, to appear and meet at the house of Stephen Pardee in said Hamden, on the sixteenth day of March, inst. at three o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to form an Episcopal Society consisting of the inhabitants aforesaid and of all such living within said limits who shall join and adhere to said

Church, and to choose all the officers necessary to such Society and to do other business requisite to said Society. Dated at Hamden the first day of March 1790.

SIMEON BRISTOL, Justice of the Peace. Alvin Bradley, Abraham Gilbert, Joel Bradley, Joseph Gilbert, Abijah Brooks; Principal inhabitants of the Episcopal Society.

Ezra Kimberly and Amasa Bradley were charter Masons, and they also joined the Episcopalians after deserting the Congregationalists, perhaps illustrating a general growing interest in liturgy and colorful ceremony which these groups offered in sharp contrast to the severity and coldness of the older church.

Services were begun in private residences, chiefly that of Stephen Pardee, who received 2 s. a day for the use of his house. Warnings of the services were posted at Theophilus Goodyear's at the southern end of the parish, and Samuel Bellamy's at the north. By 1794 the members were desirous of a church building, and they voted that: "The committee shall look and see where they can procure the most convenient spot for building a church, between the Steps and the road below Hezekiah Dickerman's." The committee looked and saw with favor the site on the main road across from the Mount Carmel Congregational Church, and a tiny building 34 x 44 feet (early Connecticut Episcopal churches averaged 30 x 40 feet in size) was erected in 1796. A year later the members voted that

any number of men may build pews or seats in the church under the inspection of the committee for that purpose; and the proprietors of such pews or seats shall hold them till the time that the Society pays the first cost of the building of said seats to the proprietors.

It was two years before this cost was met, and the pulpit was not added until 1812.

Services were conducted by various members—Amasa Bradley was lay reader for 25 years—or by visiting clergymen throughout the time in which this little church was used. Not only were Episcopal ministers scarce, and pastors in near-by churches forced to divide their time with churches in other towns than their own, but money too was scarce. It is easy to see that those Mount Carmel people who left the Congregational church because they did not wish to pay religious taxes would not be generous in their contributions to the Episcopal group either.

SCHOOLS

In 1794 Connecticut school districts were given the power and authority to tax themselves for the purpose of building and repairing a schoolhouse in every such district, and the power to choose a clerk and a collector of taxes.

The town was beginning to relax its control of both church and school matters, giving the ecclesiastical societies jurisdiction over church affairs, and yielding some of its powers in educational matters to the State.

A committee of the General Assembly was named in 1795 to sell Connecticut's Western Reserve land, which stretched for 120 miles westward from Pennsylvania and north to Lake Erie—3,300,000 acres within the present State of Ohio. The total receipts from this sale—\$1,200,000 by 1800, and \$15,000,000 by 1935—were set aside by the General Assembly as "a perpetual fund appropriated to the support of schools." The income from this fund, together with money from the

State Treasury which was based on tax lists, was paid out annually to the school societies for the benefit of local schools. Hamden did not rely upon this fund alone, as many other towns did, for the support of education. On October 26, 1798, the records read:

School meeting held at the house of Timothy Andrews. Voted that we do lay a direct tax of two pence on the pound of all the rateable estate we possess according to the list of 1797, payable the first of December next. JOHN HUBBARD.

In 1799,

at a school meeting held at the schoolhouse—voted that a part of the public money shall be laid out this summer in a free school taught by a mistress. Voted that not more than one half of the public money shall be laid out this summer. Voted that the free school begin the first day of August next.

The Mount Carmel Ecclesiastical Society voted in 1795 on the question of “new modling” the school districts.

Educational matters were still settled in the Samuel Bellamy tavern. In 1792 a Cheshire town meeting voted that

several of the clergy make inquiries of their neighboring towns and see what can be done towards erecting an Episcopal Academy. Voted that a committee be chosen with full powers to contract with the committee of the Episcopal Convention to convene at Samuel Bellamy’s in Hamden on the first of July next—and establish the academy in that town they consider most eligible.

Cheshire was the town that was deemed most suitable in which to establish Cheshire Academy, but the decision to locate it there was made in Hamden’s famous tavern.

THE TAVERNS

Jesse Goodyear conducted a tavern in Centerville on the site of the present town hall. His grandfather, Captain Jesse, had fought in the Revolution, and his father, Jesse, Jr., manufactured bells in Centerville in 1794. The following advertisements appeared in New Haven newspapers:

BELL FOUNDRY

The subscriber informs the public that he is erecting a Bell Foundry in Hamden, six miles from New Haven, where bells of all sizes will be cast in the neatest manner.

Those towns or parishes who want bells cast over, or new ones, may be provided on the shortest notice on the lowest terms.

He gives the highest price, in cash, for old Copper and Block Tin, for any quantity.

JESSE GOODYEAR.

Hamden, March 17, 1794

Bell Founder.

Sept. 4, 1794:

JESSE GOODYEAR has cast two bells, of 600 weight each, one for Milford and one for Salem. Both finished in three weeks. Sound gives good satisfaction. Also makes and repairs vanes, clocks and watches in the neatest manner, and is plating buckles as usual.

In 1797 Justus Cooper was the proprietor of the Old Red Tavern on the Old Cheshire Road (Dixwell Avenue) in Hamden Plains. He was probably there in 1780. Innkeepers were highly respected, important leaders in their communities; they had to be property owners, and the rules which they were expected to enforce in the conduct of their business required them to

be of exemplary character. The use of spirituous liquor was common in every walk of life, even in the churches. George L. Clark, in his *History of New Haven County*, says: "Ordinations, church dedications, donation parties and pastoral calls were scarcely sacred without the 'beloved flip' in the 1790's." Account books which recorded the cost of erecting church buildings contained as many items for liquor as for lumber and nails. At the time of the invasion of New Haven by the British in 1779, John Lothrop of New Haven presented a bill to the state as follows:

Dr, State of Connecticut to John Lothrop	
1779	To 20 gallons of Rum delivered to the Troops under command of Col. Hezk. Sabin on the day of the late incursion of the Enemy into this Town. The Troops greatly fatigued, and by desire of Sabin 180.00 . . .
	of old Chease 20.00
	<hr/>
	200.00
New Haven, August 30, 1779.	

Colonel Hezekiah Sabin approved the bill, saying that the troops had received "rum and refreshments."

Javin Woodin's account book is interspersed indiscriminately with notations about his care of the poor, school meetings, and charges in the store which he kept. One of the latter read:

Mother Blakesly, Dr. Quart of rum 0/1/6, one quarter tea, brown sugar, wheat flour. To gin, cod-fish and molasses, 0/5/4½. To quart rum, to two fowls.

JERRY ALLING

Liquor was the coin paid to Jerry Alling (who lived near the Old Cheshire Road at Hamden Plains, on

what is now Putnam Avenue) for the elm tree which became famous as the "Franklin Elm." Henry Peck, in his *History of the State House, New Haven, Conn.*, says:

The elm tree, corner of Church and Chapel Sts., was set out the day that Benjamin Franklin died: April 17, 1790. The tree was purchased by Mr. Thaddeus Beecher for one quart of St. Croix rum, of Jerry Alling of Hamden, who brought it into town on his shoulder and planted it where it now flourishes in its lovely age. The man was known sometimes as Apple Alling, because he peddled fruit to the College students. In 1887, this Franklin Elm, as it is sometimes called, measured sixteen feet around its trunk, two feet above the ground, and it is still growing, although some of its limbs have been lost. On one side it has become injured by the wheels of passing carts, and about 30 years ago, Mr. Gad Day inserted in its side a thick board about three feet long, to keep out the weather. The bark has since so grown over the board that only about two feet of its length and eight inches of its width can be seen. The tree has increased a foot and a half in diameter since this bit of surgery. A few years before the war between the North and the South, Philip Pinkerman raised by subscription about sixty dollars, and this money, with a small appropriation by the city, was used to pay for the wrought-iron fence which at present protects the tree, but which should now be enlarged.

The *Connecticut Quarterly* spoke of the tree and its beautiful shade for the old town pump, and of Jerry Alling as a "poet and pedagogue." The tree was not felled until 1904.

Henry T. Blake, in speaking of elm tree planting on the New Haven Green in 1784, said: "This row of trees along what is now Temple Street was the first

planting inside the Green, and was the precursor of the more extensive tree planting between that date and 1796 by Mr. James Hillhouse."

George P. Allen's genealogy of the Allings of New Haven says this of Jerry Alling:

He was a schoolteacher as well as a poet, and kept a daily record of the weather, 25 years of which he published, beginning with April 1, 1785, entitled, "*A Register of the Weather, or an Account of the Several Rains, Snow Storms, Depth of Snow, Hail and Thunder, with Some Account of the Weather Each Day, and Some Other Worthy Events of Notice for the Last 25 Years Ending March 3, 1810. From Observations Taken Most of the Time in Hamden, Near New Haven in Connecticut., lat. 41.23 N., long. 73.11 W. by Jeremiah Alling. New Haven. Press of Oliver, Steel & Co., 1810.*"

This book must have established a record for the length of its title! Mr. Alling was very much interested in the English language and was ambitious to publish a dictionary. He called upon the great Noah Webster and said, among other things, "Now, Mr. Webster, if I don't speak proper, you correct me." "Properly, Mr. Alling!" rejoined Mr. Webster. As was common in the colonial period, Jerry Alling was both a schoolmaster and a sexton, and it was to the East Plains Church in 1809 that he presented a bill "for opening and shutting and sweping the meeting house and ringing the bell one year, \$8.00."

SOCIAL LIFE

This was a period in which Connecticut people tried to provide everything possible for their own needs, as they had very little money. Services were commonly

exchanged for goods instead of cash. Javin Woodin's account book contains such items as:

Captain Stephen Dummer Dr., to about half a bushel small watermelon, for which he is to bottom and varnish two chairs in a handsome manner.

Joseph Smith of New Haven, blacksmith, Dr., to eleven middling sized watermelon, for which he is to shoe a horse forward with good new shoes to be corked at the toe, and done whenever I call.

Mr. Wills Huston had a note against me for a cart of about ten dollars, and I have some chestnut timber of him, and we balanced all accounts and Debts by Book, Note or any other way against each other and passed receipts in full of all claims against each other at the house of Justus Cooper a few months ago.

Eber Ives kept a sort of store in Mount Carmel, in which his records show that he sold butter, flour, molasses, milk pans, cotton wool, platters, sugar, rum, and potatoes. One item shows that he sold Jacob Walter "21 Bushels Potaters, 31/6,—credit by 23 Shad, 13/5, by cash 6/."

One of his orders for goods shows the kind of things he bought for himself:

Mr. Bradley, Sir, pleze to let the bearer have Six gallons Lisbon wine, six do. Malaga, one role of good Tobacco, and

a great coat
nankeen vest
nankeen breeches
pr, cordroy do.
shirt No. 2
spotted stockings
silk handkf.
hait
small looking glass

pr scissors
broch
2 chests
scale and dividers
7 quarter casks
7 brass corks
powder cannister
tea

He did not confine himself to tending store for a living—he did jobs to which many other Hamden men were accustomed; ploughing, harrowing, sowing oats, hoeing corn, mowing, cradling rye, carting loads of hay to New Haven, carting “rales” and “hooppools,” mending fences, burning brush, washing sheep, “digging and stoning sullen.”

An agreement between Amos Gilbert and Joseph Peck for the latter’s similar goods and services reads:

To 2 day and a halves work
One pound and half of nails
one days moing
timber

7 loads of dung. October ye 26, 1782, then recnd
with Amos Gilbert, and Balanst All Accounts as witness our hands.

Commerce for Connecticut before 1812 was chiefly an exchange of its agricultural products and its lumber and rum for sugar, molasses, spices, tea, and silk. It is not known whether two Hamden families—the Munsons of Mount Carmel and that of Simeon Bristol—obtained their slaves in the so-called “triangular trade” which was carried on by some New Englanders who went to Africa for slaves that were sold in Jamaica, W. I., for sugar and molasses, which in turn were brought home and made into rum for further trade in Boston and New York.

HIGHWAYS, TURNPIKES

One of the first matters to receive the attention of the town was the care of roads, and in 1786 it was voted that “the selectmen for the time being be empowered

to divide the highways into regular districts, and to set out and assign the same, to the several surveyors and the inhabitants living within the same." The town meeting also voted to provide timber and plank for a bridge over a brook near Captain Gill's house. Simeon Bristol, Samuel Atwater, and Bazel Munson were to join the selectmen in viewing "the places proposed by the inhabitants of the Plains and East Farms for the purpose of a highway, and make report thereon to the next town meeting." The boundary line between Hamden and Woodbridge was to be settled "either by agreement or by submitting the same to judicious arbitrators," and both Samuel Bellamy and Jesse Gilbert acted as agents for the town of Hamden in preferring memorials to the General Assembly for straightening the line with New Haven so as to conform to the original petition for the incorporation of the town.

In 1795, the General Assembly empowered the towns in the state to collect taxes for building and repairing highways. Throughout the colonial period roads had been extremely bad. The towns had been isolated from each other, a condition with which they were entirely content—and they were practically self-sufficient; households made for themselves almost everything they used, or they could find an artisan within their neighborhood who could. They were not sociable enough to want to travel elsewhere, nor did they particularly want visitors; so they neglected the roads. As individuals and as towns, they were not interested in doing something in which there was no gain for themselves, nor did they ever enjoy being directed or supervised by a higher authority. As to care of the roads,

they had always managed to avoid complying with orders from the General Assembly.

There had been no stagecoaches in the state until after the Revolution, with the notable exception of Captain John Munson's public wagon in 1717. The first line of stages was established between New Haven, Hartford, and Boston in 1783. As the stagecoach came into greater use, the bad roads were widely complained of. The companies operating the stage lines had obtained from the state charters allowing them to build their own roads and bridges, or to take over those already existing. Ezra Stiles's diary points to the increase in stage travel:

March 8, 1795, Eight years ago, encouragement was given for two stages and 12 horses on the great road between Boston and New Haven, a distance of 170 miles. Whereas at this time, there are upwards of 100 horses and 20 carriages employed. Eight years ago there were but 3.

While in colonial days travel and trade had been mostly by water routes, due in large part to England's monopoly of trade with the Colonies and to her deliberate discouragement of trade among them, now at the beginning of the nineteenth century the need for good highways was an immediate and all-important problem. Towns like Hamden could not afford, even had they been willing to bear it, the expense of maintaining inter-city highways. But groups of individuals saw the possibilities of good investment profits from the formation of turnpike companies. It was apparent that such groups could not acquire old roads or good locations for new, nor have the power to collect tolls, nor could they afford

the risk of damage suits for possible defects in the road. It was necessary to obtain such rights and immunities from the state, which also furnished a safeguard to the interests of the traveling public.

In exchange for relieving the towns of the care of these highways, the turnpike companies were granted the right of "eminent domain," by which they might take over, after suitable compensation had been given, the lands of stubborn proprietors. Toll gates were set up, and gatekeepers collected toll from those who used the road, at rates including twenty-five cents for a four-wheeled pleasure carriage and four cents for a man on horseback.

Exempted from payment of toll were churchgoers on Sunday, those on the way to funerals, voters on the way to town meeting, militiamen on the way to and from training, and farmers on the way to and from the mill. Investment in the turnpike companies seemed perfectly safe to people who could not imagine a future without stagecoach travel, and franchises were granted without termination date—the only provision being that the road should revert to the public after the investors had been paid back their capital with 12 per cent interest. Not a single Connecticut turnpike made anywhere near the amount which the investors expected.

HARTFORD TURNPIKE

The Hartford and New Haven Turnpike was laid out in 1798. James Hillhouse of New Haven was the president of the company. The road ran an almost straight course between the two cities, from Grove

Street in New Haven out Whitney Avenue to where the present Lake Whitney dam is located, then across Mill River through the southeast part of Hamden, the westerly part of Wallingford, the center of Meriden, the easterly part of Berlin, the southeast corner of Newington, and the northwest part of Wethersfield, into Hartford. A Hamden town meeting was opposed to the turnpike in 1798, and voted that "all reasonable and probable means by way of remonstrance before the General Assembly . . . be made use of to prevent the road lately laid out from New Haven to Hartford, so far as respects this town." Josiah Root was named agent for the town, "to oppose the aforesaid road as it relates to this town, with or without counsel, as he shall judge most conducive to the benefit and general good of the same."

A report of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, in 1808, said of the turnpikes:

The most expensive is that from New Haven to Hartford, which has cost \$79,261, or, the distance being $34 \frac{3}{5}$ miles, at the rate of \$2,280 a mile; but about \$18,000 of the capital has been expended in the purchase of the land through which the road is carried.

The amount paid in Hamden for land was \$1,332.98, to families bearing the names of Gilbert, Potter, Ford, Bassett, Ball, Mansfield, Doolittle, Humiston, Thomas, Hubbard, Gill, Peckham, and Talmadge. The 800 shares of stock were taken in a month's time, and many who sought to buy were disappointed. There was a "half toll gate" in Hamden, and the story is told of two ladies in a buggy who inquired the amount of the toll. The gatekeeper named the charge for a man and a

horse, whereupon the lady who held the reins whipped up the animal, saying, as she passed the astonished gatekeeper, "Then we needn't pay, as we are two women and a mare!"

CHESHIRE TURNPIKE

In the following year, 1799, the General Assembly was petitioned for the establishment of the Cheshire Turnpike. The petitioners alleged that the road down from Farmington through Southington and Cheshire was "much out of repair, in many places circuiting on bad grounds." Among them were Samuel Bellamy, John Munson, and Joel Root of Hamden, and Burrage Beach of Cheshire. Hamden took no official action with regard to this road, but in Cheshire, "on motion whether this town will do anything respecting the Turnpike Road. It was voted in the Negative." On April 23, 1800, the Cheshire Turnpike Company was incorporated, and there were 400 shares of stock.

The road began with Grove and Temple Streets, and coincided with the Hartford Turnpike as far as the latter's turn across Mill River, the upkeep and expense of that section being equally shared by the two companies. The Cheshire Turnpike continued northerly, for some distance lying in what later was the bed of the artificial Lake Whitney.

Among the property owners affected by the road appear the names of Ford, Potter, Talmadge, Gilbert, Bassett, Humiston, Bradley, Cooper, Ives, Dickerman, Todd, Bristol, and Pierpont.

The rates in effect on the Cheshire Turnpike out of New Haven were:

	Cents	Mills
For each person and horse	4	0
For each chaire, sulkey or chair		
with one horse driver and passenger	12	5
Each four-wheel pleasure carriage, driver and passenger	25	0
Each stage, driver and passenger	25	0
Each two-horse pleasure sleigh, driver and passenger	12	5
Each one-horse pleasure sleigh, driver and passenger	6	3
Each loaded cart, sled, sleigh or waggon and driver	12	5
Each empty cart, sled, sleigh, waggon and driver	6	3
Each single horse cart loaded and driver	6	3
Each single empty horse cart and driver	4	0
Horses, cattle and mules, each	2	0
Sheep and swine, each	0	5

The first half-toll gate which operated in Hamden was located near Hezekiah Dickerman's house (later the Kenyon place). Those who lived within a mile of the toll house did not have to pay toll if they went no farther than one mile beyond it, and those living above it might go about their business within the town toll-free; but they did not have the privilege of going on into New Haven by way of the Old Cheshire Road (Dixwell Avenue). Farmers living in the south end of the town were permitted to go up to their woodlots north of the gate and fetch wood back to their homes past the toll house without charge. There was no way of enforcing such rules. In practice many of these loads merely halted before the farmer's house, and then im-

mediately continued on their way to a New Haven market.

Within a very short time, the town of Hamden became bitterly opposed to the turnpike gate. Indignant town meetings sent requests and threats to the turnpike company to remove it, and the selectmen were instructed "to proceed immediately and clear and keep cleared the old road of the fence erected by the Cheshire Turnpike Company near Hezekiah Dickerman's, so far as the said fence is not in the four rods granted to said turnpike company by the [General] Assembly." These actions being of no avail, the town petitioned the General Assembly, "praying a removal of the Cheshire Turnpike gate established in this town, so that the inhabitants have the use of their old roads free of toll, or relief in some other manner, and the selectmen are hereby directed to draw said petition and to subscribe it in the name and behalf of the town." Futile as such protests proved to be, Hamden was not willing to be outdone, and in a matter of years Shepard Avenue was laid out for the express purpose of avoiding the toll gate, which, with a small tollhouse, was then a short distance north of the Mount Carmel church. This specially built new road was called the "Shunpike." Sterling Bradley, whose home was located a short distance above Shepard Avenue's junction with Whitney Avenue, was the sole proprietor in the last days of toll collecting. He maintained at his home a profitable tavern where passenger and mail coaches stopped for refreshment and a relay change of horses at this thirteen-mile distance from New Haven. Inns and blacksmith shops were paying businesses along the turnpikes in their day, a day that was over within fifty years.

ELI WHITNEY

Connecticut people were beginning to relax the early concentration on religion, and to give more attention to worldly affairs; they were not now so much wrapped up in the life after death, as in what could be done in this one. The emigration westward of so many Connecticut men opened a wider market to those left at home who had to replace them in the labor shortage thus created on the farms and in the mills of New England. *Pease & Niles Gazeteer* of 1819 said of this westward emigration, "within the last 30 years it has swelled to a torrent." The reason for it may have been land hunger or pursuit of trade, but in any case, it was evident to these departing men that they could never raise enough surplus raw materials on Connecticut soil to make a living in trade.

After the establishment of the first woolen mills in this region at Hartford in 1788, waterpower rapidly became the means of turning the wheels of industry. It had turned the wheels of colonial grist mills, and now it made possible Connecticut's importance as an industrial state—an importance which its comparatively poor agricultural facilities would never have brought it. Hamden was endowed by nature with a swift-flowing stream invitingly suitable for the establishment of factories. At the very point where Captain Fowler had built New Haven's first grist mill in 1640, Eli Whitney began in 1798 to set up his arms factory, through which, next to the invention of the cotton gin, came his place in history.

Eli Whitney was born in Westboro, Massachusetts, December 8, 1765, of parents whose direct ancestry was English. His father was a farmer, with an uncommonly

good supply of tools in his workshop, including a lathe, and his spare time in the winter evenings was spent in turning out wheels and chairs.

The boy attended a district school three fourths of a mile from his home, and in winter he made his own path across lots through the snow. From the time he was eleven, his day began with feeding and watering sixty head of cattle before starting to school. Like his father, he loved to tinker in the workshop. He made a violin when he was twelve, and after that, his neighbors brought him their musical instruments for repairs. Following the Revolutionary War there was a great shortage of nails, which at that time were forged on the anvil by hand. Eli persuaded his father to supply the necessary tools, and went into the business.

At the age of sixteen the boy wished to attend college, and his father who previously had recommended college to him, now began to doubt its advisability. Meanwhile the neighboring town of Grafton advertised in the newspaper for a schoolmaster, and though he had no apparent qualifications for teaching, Eli rode over and persuaded the selectmen to employ him, at a salary of \$7 a month and board. He resurrected his old textbooks and refreshed his mind of their contents, and with only this preparation did a creditable job of teaching. He taught for five winters in succession at Grafton, Westboro, Northboro, and Paxton, and the income thus gained made possible his attendance at the summer sessions of Leicester Academy. In 1789, at twenty-three, he entered Yale. His neighbors, knowing his skill with tools, shook their heads (as neighbors will), and advised him against college, predicting that there he would be wasting his talents. With the thousand dol-



Tollgate House on the Cheshire Turnpike

Photo by Carl J. Jensen



Eli Whitney

lars given him by his father, by means of the proverbial mortgage on the farm, and his earnings as he went along, he finished college.

Reverend Ezra Stiles was president then. A strong restraining hand was needed to discipline the students in their postwar exuberance, and President Stiles was eminently equal to the task. Strict and unyielding as he was, he thoroughly knew the boys in his care, and he was aware of Eli's exceptional mechanical genius. But even he was astounded, as were others of the faculty, when a complicated instrument used in the study of astronomy broke, and the only possible way of repairing it seemed to be sending it abroad to experts—Eli tried his hand at fixing it, with immediate success.

Upon his graduation from college, and with his money all spent, he turned aside from a contemplated career at law to become tutor in a South Carolina family at 80 guineas a year. As he was preparing to leave New Haven, President Stiles introduced him to the widow of General Nathaniel Greene, who had been traveling through the North with her children and their tutor, Phineas Miller, whom she afterwards married. They were pleasant traveling companions on the trip south, and Whitney was easily persuaded to visit them at beautiful Mulberry Grove in Savannah, Georgia. His skill at making and mending tools became known to the planters, who told him ruefully of the difficulty they had in raising any profitable crop there. They described a green-seeded cotton which would grow well, but because the seed clung so tightly to the fiber, endless time was consumed in separating them. It was a good day's work to clean a single pound. In the evening after sup-

per the slaves would sit in a circle to clean the cotton picked in the day, even the children helping.

Whitney's facile wits were challenged by the need of a machine which would perform this work, and although he knew nothing about the cotton plant, he set to work making his own tools. The form of the instrument was suggested to him when he saw a kitten dart its paw between two fence pickets to claw a few feathers from a chicken. He began to make a model, and felt sure that he could construct a machine, if he only had the time to complete it. But the tutoring job stood in the way, and he reluctantly terminated his visit, presenting himself to his prospective employer, just over the South Carolina state line. Here he learned that on account of the poor crops his salary would be only 40 guineas. He promptly declined the position, and hastened back to his friends at Savannah. Although he was without funds, he was cordially urged to spend the winter with them.

By spring he had practically completed the model for the cotton gin. It was kept under lock and key, but in spite of this precaution it was stolen, copied, and actually put into use before the inventor could obtain a patent. The patent law of 1790 was imperfect, and Whitney was involved in many law suits.

Phineas Miller became a partner and furnished funds for the manufacture of the invention. In the fall of 1793 Whitney wrote to Thomas Jefferson, then Secretary of State, asking for a patent, and received a reply in which Jefferson showed a keen personal interest in seeing the model, saying that he, like many Virginians, carried on the household manufacture of cotton, and that if the answers to his inquiries proved favorable,

he would be "induced to engage one of them to be forwarded to Richmond."

The patent was granted in March, 1794, but infringements were many and troublesome. Whitney came to New Haven to begin work on a contract for the State of South Carolina, which was to pay him \$50,000. He set up his machinery in New Haven in a building on the corner of Wooster and Chestnut Streets, but a disastrous fire wiped out his capital, for which he was paying a high rate of interest. He was subjected to much ill-will and delay in his dealings with South Carolina; nothing came of promises made by Tennessee; and Georgia, which was to benefit most from the invention, gave him the most trouble. Only in North Carolina did he make a substantial profit, due to a five-year tax imposed on all saws used in ginning cotton, and even this profit was dissipated in litigation with other states.

The impetus which Whitney's invention gave to the raising of cotton, and indirectly to the institution of slavery, made the South very prosperous. Not only did the South enjoy great benefit and wealth, but the whole world gained the use of cheap and comfortable cotton clothing, and the commerce of the United States was immensely changed. In 1784, it was doubted in England whether eight bales of cotton found on one American vessel had all come from the United States, and in 1791 the entire cotton crop in this country was no more than 2 million pounds; but by 1809 it had risen to 18 million pounds, and by 1845 to a billion pounds, which was then more than seven eighths of the world's supply.

Thomas Macaulay said of Whitney: "What Peter the Great did to make Russia dominant, Eli Whitney's

invention of the cotton gin has more than equaled in its relation to the progress and power of the United States." This was praise indeed from an Englishman!

The original model of the cotton gin is preserved in New Haven by the New Haven Colony Historical Society. President Ezra Stiles had continued his interest in Whitney, and a notation in his diary at the time that Whitney came back to New Haven reads:

Mr. Whitney brot to my house and shewed us his machine by him invented for cleaning cotton of its seeds. He shewed us the model, which he has finished to lodge at Philadelphia in the Sec'y of State's office when he takes out his patent. This miniature model is perfect. It will clean 100 cwt. a day. A curious and very ingenious piece of mechanism.

The last ungrateful indignity which Whitney suffered from the acts of the Southern States was the refusal of Congress, under their pressure in 1812, to renew his patent.

Just at the time when Whitney was convinced that he could expect no further profit from the promotion of his cotton gin, action was being taken in the National Congress to supply the need for firearms, by undertaking their manufacture in this country. Whitney heard of this action, and characteristically determined to try another field of endeavor, a field with which he was utterly unfamiliar, but in which his keen mind was already inventively active. He wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury, Oliver Wolcott, an acquaintance who was a native of Connecticut, and also a graduate of Yale of the Class of 1778, son of a governor of Connecticut by the same name, and himself also governor directly after he presided over the State Constitutional Convention of 1817. Whitney's letter to him follows:

New Haven, May 1, 1798.

To Oliver Wolcott, Esq.

Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

Sir: By the debate in Congress, I observe that they are about making some appropriations for procuring arms, etc., for the United States.

Should an actual war take place or the communication between the United States and the West India Islands continue to be hazardous and precarious as it now is, my business of making the Patent Machines for Cleansing Cotton must, in the meantime, be postponed. I have a number of workmen and apprentices whom I have instructed in working in wood and metals, and whom I wish to keep employed. These circumstances induced me to address you and ask the privilege of having an opportunity of contracting for the supply of some of the articles which the United States may want. I should like to undertake to manufacture ten or fifteen thousand stand of arms.

I am persuaded that machinery moved by water adapted to this business, would greatly diminish the labor and facilitate the manufacture of this article; Machines for forging, rolling, floating, boring, grinding, polishing, etc., may all be made use of to advantage.

Cartridge or cartouche box is an article which I can manufacture. I have a machine for boring wood of my own invention, which is admirably adapted for this purpose.

The making of swords, hangers, pistols, etc., I could perform.

There is a good fall of water in the vicinity of this town (New Haven) which I can procure, and could have works erected in a short time. It would not answer, however, to go to the expense of erecting works for this purpose unless I could contract to make a considerable number.

The contracting for the above articles will not, I suppose, belong to the Department of the Treasury;

but if you will take the trouble to mention me to the Secretary of War, I shall consider it as a particular favor.

I shall be able to procure sufficient bonds for the fulfillment of a contract of the sum above mentioned, and will come forward to Philadelphia immediately, in case there is an opportunity for me to make proposals.

With the highest respect, I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

ELI WHITNEY.

Through Mr. Wolcott's influence, and through his own acquaintance with Jefferson and others, Whitney readily obtained the contract, on June 14, 1798. It was an enormous project for a young man of thirty-three years, only six years out of college, who nevertheless had, in addition to his own self-assurance, the confidence of several New Haven men of importance who were willing to go on his bond. He agreed to manufacture 10,000 muskets within two years at \$13.40 each, and was under bond of \$30,000 for the faithful performance of his contract. He began with nothing but his brains and his undaunted courage; he had no factory, no materials, no skilled workmen, and almost no money. But he purchased the old Todd mill site in Hamden, and constructed his own machinery, working tirelessly day and night. Eventually the milling machine which he invented became one of the most important used in machine shops ever since.

Heretofore all guns had been made by hand, and whenever one needed repairing a new part had to be made especially for it. Whitney's machines took the place of hand labor, and he manufactured uniform parts which could be put into any weapon made from the same pattern. On one of his trips to Washington, he

gave a convincing demonstration of his machine-made parts by assembling ten muskets from a pile of separate parts on the floor. He became the pioneer in the mass production of machines as well as of weapons. Quantity production, interchangeable parts, the assembly line, were the result of his labors. Cotton manufacture had expanded from his earlier invention, and now arms manufacture from his Hamden plant on Mill River.

Delays came at the very beginning of his venture, caused by a long and severe winter. His dam was frozen up, and so were the works of Forbes and Adams of Canaan, who were to supply him with iron tools according to his pattern. Forage for cattle was scarce, and oxteams were almost unprocurable for the long haul. Whitney's plan to carry on part of the manufacture in his New Haven buildings was abandoned for the more convenient one of having all the work done at one place, and new buildings had to be erected at the dam. Four thousand muskets were promised to be ready at the end of the first year, but when Whitney wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury, on May 31, 1799, only 500 were ready. He said gloomily,

I find that my personal attention is more constantly and essentially necessary to every branch of the work than I apprehended. Mankind in general are not to be depended on, and the best workmen I can find are incapable of directing. Indeed there is no branch of the work that can proceed well, scarcely for a single hour, unless I am present.

He wished the work to be done well, regardless of the time that it might take. In a letter to the Secretary of War, he said, with confident assurance:

It has been my endeavor, to erect such works as would be commensurate with the undertaking, and to erect

such machinery as appeared to me best calculated to facilitate and improve the manufacture of arms of the best quality. My system and plans of operation are, I believe, entirely new and different from those heretofore pursued in this or any other country.

It was the understanding and expectation of the Secretary of the Treasury with whom I contracted, that I should establish a manufactory on the principles which were then pointed out and explained to him. This system has been uniformly pursued from the beginning, and though it has required more time to execute this plan than I at that time contemplated, it has been successfully reduced to practice with less expense than I then apprehended would be required, and the machinery in its operation exceeds my most sanguine expectations. It not only abridges manual labor, but gives a degree of perfection to the work beyond the power of the most skillful workman in the usual method.

An extension of time was granted, but greater advances from the Treasury as well as another bond to protect the Government were necessary, and ten of New Haven's leading citizens signed an indemnity bond of \$10,000. They were Simeon Baldwin, David Daggett, Pierpont Edwards, Eneas Munson, Jr., Jeremiah Atwater, James Hillhouse, Elias Shipman, Timothy Phelps, Peleg Sanford, and Elizur Goodrich.

Whitney's ability and character were always highly appreciated at Yale. President Timothy Dwight wrote a letter in his behalf to Honorable Charles Pinckney of South Carolina in 1801, when Whitney made another journey into the South in hopes of some belated gains from his cotton gin. Said President Dwight,

Permit me, sir, as a friend of so worthy and ingenious a man as Mr. Whitney, to solicit your friendly assistance to him. . . . To you, Sir, it will be in the stead

of many ordinary motives to know that your aid in this case be given to a man who is rarely, perhaps never, exceeded in ingenuity or industry, and not often in worth of every kind. Every respectable man in this region will rejoice to see him liberally rewarded for so useful an effort, and for a life of uncommon benefit to the public.

Mr. Whitney is employed in manufacturing muskets for the United States. In this business he has probably exceeded the efforts not only of his countrymen, but the whole civilized world, by a system of machinery of his own invention, in which expedition and accuracy are united to a degree probably without example.

I should not have thought it necessary to speak of him in so strong terms, had I not believed that his own modesty would keep him from discovering his real character. A wish to serve a worthy name will, I am sure, be my apology to you, Sir, for this application.

Captain Decius Wadsworth, who was inspector of arms being made for the Government, came often to the Hamden factory, and he once wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury:

I have great satisfaction in being able to declare that the progress already made by him leaves no room to doubt of his eventual complete success, provided he receives suitable support and encouragement from the Government. . . . I entertain not a doubt that the arms he is making, more especially in that which is the most difficult part (the Lock), will not only greatly exceed in point of workmanship the best which have been fabricated for that use in this country, but even be superior to any muskets for common use ever yet fabricated in any country.

These were words of high praise from such a quarter. In the same letter, Mr. Wadsworth describes the Whitney system of manufacture, pointing out its radical

and revolutionary differences from the heretofore accepted method of making each gun by hand.

It must be admitted, I believe, that Mr. Whitney at his factory unites more advantages for carrying on the manufacture of small arms upon a scale sufficiently large than the national armory at Springfield possesses; and he is capable of executing the same quantity of work with a much smaller proportion of manual labor. Where the eye of the workman is almost the only guide in fitting up the lock, not only a longer course of practice is requisite to insure a tolerable degree of perfection in the execution; but after all the similar parts of different locks are so far unlike that they cannot be mutually substituted in cases of accidents. But where the different parts of the lock are each formed and fashioned successively by a proper machine, and by the same hand, they will be found to differ so insensibly that the similar parts of different locks may be mutually substituted. The extending of this principle to all the parts of a musket, has been a favorite idea with Mr. Whitney from the beginning. . . .

As I have had particular opportunity, by an intimate acquaintance, to notice the less obvious traits of his character, I hope to be excused for making the observations which follow. His mechanical invention, ingenuity, and ability no one I believe at present questions. . . . Patient, prudent, of mature reflection, diligent, economical, blest with sound judgment, it is rare to find a man uniting so many excellencies, free from striking defects. . . . I therefore entertain a hope that an institution so highly deserving of national patronage and support will meet with the encouragement which it merits.

During the ten years (not two) in which Whitney manufactured the Government's requirement of 10,000 muskets, advances from the Treasury of \$10,000 and \$15,000 were successively made; in fact, in the final

settlement at the completion of the contract, there was a balance due him of only \$2,450. Throughout this period, the Government's confidence in Whitney was implicit, and the Secretary of the Treasury, after inspecting the factory, told him that the uses to which the money advanced him had been put were highly prudent and economical, and the results unbelievably gratifying.

Commendatory letters were sent to Washington by the governors of Connecticut and New York. Governor Tompkins said that he had never seen so perfect an establishment as Whitney's, and that "few persons in this country surpass Mr. Whitney in talents as a mechanic, or in experience as a manufacturer of muskets." Governor Wolcott's closing words were a restrained understatement when he said that the improved state of manufactures was greatly indebted to Mr. Whitney's skill and exertions, that he was a man of science, industry, and integrity, and that "his inventions and labors have been as useful to this country as those of any other individual."

The system of interchangeable parts, which Eli Whitney first applied to the manufacture of firearms, revolutionized manufacturing industry the world over, and has made possible the cheap, accurate, and rapid mass production of other machines—typewriters, sewing machines, automobiles, and planes. He originated precision machine tools, gauges, and line assembly. He persuaded Eli Terry of Terryville to make clocks by machinery. His armory was the largest and best equipped in the country. Gallitius' report in 1810 on the production of arms in the country speaks of the number of such factories "of which the most perfect is that near New Haven." The Government obtained his

willing aid in setting up armories at Springfield and Harper's Ferry.

Mr. Whitney's name appears in the Hamden town records in 1806, when he and two others, Amasa Bradley and John Hubbard, were appointed auditors of town accounts.

In the War of 1812 Whitney manufactured 15,000 guns for the Government, and fulfilled a similar contract for the State of New York. Robert Fulton appealed to him in 1810 for aid in protecting his patents on the steamboat.

Whitney was fifty-one when he married, in 1817, Henrietta Edwards, the daughter of Honorable Pierpont Edwards and the granddaughter of Reverend Jonathan Edwards. His only son, Eli, 2d, was born in 1820. The Eli Whitney house on the site of the Governor Eaton mansion at the corner of Elm and Orange Streets in New Haven was occupied after his death by his widow; but during his life in New Haven he lived in a house at 275 Orange Street, designed in 1800 by David Hoadley.

Eli Whitney was the first in importance of many Hamden inventors, contributing to the record held by Connecticut of receiving a higher ratio of patents than any other state. Scudder says,

There have been times when contending armies have both been armed from the little state of Connecticut, and yet the state itself had furnished hardly a particle of raw material, its entire contribution being the ingenuity of its workmen and the mechanical genius of its inventors.

Freeing his inventive mind of tradition, precedent, and prejudice, Whitney looked at every problem as

though nothing had ever been done about it, erasing from his memory what others had done, and thinking only of how the task could best be accomplished. In the manufacture of muskets he exhibited not only his inventive ability and confidence in himself, but supreme courage and daring as well. He was a man of kindness and dignity, a philanthropist whose interest in his workmen prompted him to build, in 1800, a row of comfortable houses on Armory Street for the use of his workmen—Hamden's earliest model-housing project! An active citizen in his own town, he also enjoyed the acquaintance of men in high office in the state and the nation, many of whom came here to see him. In Grove Street Cemetery where he rests full equal with many of New Haven's most illustrious dead, his gravestone bears the following inscription:

ELI WHITNEY

The Inventor of the Cotton Gin,
Of Useful Science and Arts the Efficient Patron and Improver.
In the Relations of Life a Model of Excellence.

While private affection weeps at his tomb, his country
honors his memory.

Died Jan. 8th, 1825.

Born Dec. 8th, 1765.

EARLY WHITNEYVILLE

In taking over the Todd mill and dam, Mr. Whitney also acquired much of the land by the river, in order to avoid legal complications if he should build the dam higher and cause the land to be overflowed. This foresight made it easier for Eli Whitney, Jr., to organize the New Haven Water Company many years later. In 1798 Mr. Whitney bought from Charles Chauncey,

Pierpont Edwards, and James Hillhouse the grist mill and dam area, with all the rights for raising the dam and flooding the area. The linseed-oil mill had not been used for twenty years.

In the same year, 1798, Whitney bought a hundred acres from Daniel Talmadge, most of it west of the Cheshire Road, where there stood a house and barn and a blacksmith shop. From Stephen Ford he purchased a half acre, just south of the dam, with a "cellar." In 1809 he acquired from Talmadge an old house and barn, possibly the Bradley homestead, and the paper mill, which stood not far from the present location of the Whitneyville Congregational Church. This mill had been started by Daniel and Josiah Talmadge, Richard Woodhull, and Solomon Gilbert. Other houses were purchased from Samuel Thomas, David and Eli Potter, Nicholas Howell, and Hezekiah Johnson, on whose property was listed a "hay scale." No doubt the houses were acquired to accommodate the workmen at the armory. Besides extending up the river for some distance, the Whitney holdings touched the edge of East Rock and the top of Mill Rock, and included the land on both sides of the road from the present Highland Street in New Haven to the present Larson School in Hamden.

HEALTH AND THE HEREAFTER

In the first two years of the corporate life of Hamden, other matters than those of health had occupied the attention of the officials—at least, nothing appears on the records until, at a town meeting held in 1788, the question was put "whether liberty shall be given to

Drs. Aaron and Joseph Eliot to set up a hospital for the purpose of enoculation for the small pox at the dwelling of John Hubbard, Esq., under such restrictions and regulations as shall be prescribed by the civil authorities and selectmen of this town. Voted in the negative." This unfavorable action, so difficult to understand today, does not mean that small pox was not feared, for it was. There had been a local epidemic of the disease in 1773, in which many died. But the "enoculation" itself was a medical treatment not yet wholly trusted. Lydia Thompson Hitchcock, writing home to her mother, Mrs. Eber Ives at Mount Carmel, in 1792, said, "My enoculation was very light. I am broke out and have not more than twenty pox in all."

Gravestones of the period reflect a doleful resignation to death and suffering. In the Central Burying Ground the stone over the wife of Captain Samuel Atwater reads:

Death is a debt to nature due, which I have
paid and so must you.

Mrs. Jacob Atwater's stone bears these words:

Life uncertain, death is sure,
Sin the wound, Christ the cure.

In the correspondence of the Thompson family (children of Mrs. Eber Ives by an earlier marriage), typical feelings and conditions of the times are shown, especially about poor health and the expectation of dying. Lydia's husband was a sailor and in his long absences she left her home in St. Johns to come to Mount Carmel. Her brother Timothy was also a sailor. He received a letter from his brother Joseph in 1794:

Brothers and sisters and all friends, i here that thiss town has been very sickley we here of great numbers of young and olde people . . . great numbers are gone long to the grave ware all must go there sooner or later too but let us be prepared for Deth. Let us be prepared for that great chang as Deth then we shant be afraid to die for oure rest will in heven. I hent no more at present about these things. Deth is oure last ende. Onley be prepared for it.

A letter from the Mount Carmel home to Lydia Hitchcock reads:

February 3, 1796

I have some bad news to write and that is Mother Ives is dead. She died Very Suding on the 21 of January. May God grant us grase to make a wise Improvement of this and all the Deths that we hear of may we meditate mutch on Deth and in such a way that we may prepare for our own Desulation.

Referring to the long absences of her husband from home, Lydia wrote to her sister:

All the happiness I ever expect to teake is when I leave this frail body. . . . I have reason to hope for happiness hereafter.

The "cost of dying" was not great in those days. When Captain Caleb Alling died in 1823, Alfred Cooper was paid \$1.50 for going to New Haven for the coffin and attending the funeral with the hearse. The coffin and trimmings, bought from James English, cost \$10; Asa Gilbert received 50c. for ringing the bell; Javin Woodin, for unspecified services, received \$1.50; and the gravestone bought from Jabesh Morehouse cost \$17.

In 1810, *Niles & Pease Gazeteer* listed two physicians in Hamden. But in 1821, a town meeting voted a request for a doctor to settle among them.

THE SALT MEADOWS

The salt meadows of the Quinnipiac River, part of which lie in North Haven and part in Hamden, were on two occasions the subject of petitions addressed to the General Assembly. Although the meadows have always been a favorite haunt of wild ducks, pigeons too have frequented them. In 1786, Nazareth Hill of New Haven and David Atwater of Hamden, with 132 others from both towns, set forth in their petition that pigeons had regularly been captured in nets in the salt meadows and sold for 6 d. a dozen, but in that year they were bringing 2 s. a dozen because the practice of shooting them from trees and stages and in flocks frightened so many away that the netters were not able to use their nets profitably. The legislature denied the plea of the petitioners for a ban on shooting "in flocks, on trees or Stages."

A favorable decision was given, however, in 1802, when Hamden and North Haven petitioned jointly for the construction of a huge "dyck," beginning at Benjamin Brockett's house on the east shore and extending across the river and salt meadows to the Hamden side, dividing the fresh from the salt meadows. The "dyck" was constructed at great expense, enclosing some 1,500 acres, but it became evident in a few years that the business of harvesting the hay within the enclosure was not profitable. Planned at a time when there were few cleared open fields suitable for growing

hay, the salt meadows became less and less needed as farmlands were extended. The tall rounded stacks of hay dotting the broad brown meadows used to make a picturesque scene among the twisting blue curves of the river.

THE FIRST LIBRARY

Books and library facilities were not a chief concern of the town authorities in 1800, and thus it was that the first library was established by two public-spirited families, the Bradleys and the Tutties. It was set up in the house of Horace Bradley, son of Amasa Bradley, on the turnpike north of the Sleeping Giant.* Here were made available to neighbors and friends the following fifty-eight books which, though doubtless informative, might not prove in all cases to be entertaining.

Rollins' *Ancient History*, 10 vols.

Modern Voyages and Travels, 6 vols.

Hutchinson's *History of Massachusetts*, 2 vols.

The Spectator, 8 vols.

Gregory's *History of the Church*, 2 vols.

Morse's *Geography*

Ramsay's *History*, 2 vols.

Caroline of Litchfield, 2 vols.

Evelina, 2 vols.

Boles' *Voyages*

Carver's *Travels*

Elegant Extracts

Blair's *Sermons*, 2 vols.

Emma Corbett

Sermons, 2 vols.

Telemachus

Vicar of Wakefield

Guy's *Sermons*

* John H. Dickerman.

Watts' *Lyric Poems*

James Lambert

Trumbull's *History of Connecticut*

Goldsmith's *History of England*

Beauties of Nature

Female American

Citizen of the World, 2 vols.

Bishop Porteus *Lectures*

Life of Washington

Bishop Porteus *Sermons*

Fowler's *Exposition of the Prayer Book*

Shades of Plato

Many years later this collection was sold at an auction, thus depriving later Hamden citizens of the opportunity to view, if not to read it. A twenty-five-year record of the weather, 1785-1811, was kept at the library. The hottest day during that period was July 3, 1798, when it was 101; and the coldest, February 9, 1809, when it was 5 below zero. Some of the notations were made with a poetic choice of words:

Some snow; some sunshine.

Clear morn, hail in night.

Clear and cloudy at turns.

Hazy; rainy night—peach trees begin to blow.

DOG LANE COURT

Reading was not the only pastime offered to the visitors in the Bradley home. After all, most of the literature was heavy going for men who had few chances for fun and frolic, so gradually those who met there on Saturday afternoons organized a most unique and diverting society, with rules and by-laws and elective officers, in which they burlesqued court and legal pro-

ceedings, calling themselves "Dog Lane Court." "Dog Lane" was their meaningless name for the northerly part of the turnpike in Mount Carmel. The man chosen for judge (or governor) had to be able not only to tell the biggest lie, but to make people believe him. When a Mr. Smith was elected to this honor, he immediately demurred, saying that his friend Job was far better qualified for the position, as he had such a completely convincing way of laying emphasis to his remarks with a lifted forefinger.

When Hezekiah Brockett retired from the high office in favor of a Mr. Stevens, he spoke of the society's habit of naming the most high-minded and honorable man, but "Governor" Stevens at once stopped him, saying, "Gentlemen, after hearing Mr. Brockett's speech you would think that that was entirely the principle that all the people of this 'Dog Lane Court' voted upon, but you are mistaken—for everybody knows that old Governor Stevens will lie and steal and get the best of everybody he can, and that is the principle we go upon to elect men to office."*

There was a penalty for all farmers whose first hoeing of corn was not completed by June 20. The members of the Court had to finish the hoeing, and the neglectful farmer was publicly crowned with the shell of a mud turtle. When Obed Blakeslee was dubbed the laziest man in Mount Carmel, he maintained that Eli was lazier, but one of the members said, "Eli is what I call a dead slow man, but you are what I call a downright lazy man."

Feats of strength were among the Saturday activities, and the Doolittle brothers were famed for their wrest-

* John H. Dickerman.

ling prowess and their ability to carry a 400-pound beam on their shoulders. When Reuben was bested by a Yale student in a wrestling match, he said he would bring his brother, who was a little better than he, the next time he came to town. When he and brother Caleb arrived at the campus in an oxcart, Caleb lifted from it a full barrel of cider, and drank from the bung hole. This exhibition of strength entirely discouraged any offer to wrestle with him. Little did Caleb dream that his townspeople would long remember him, nor would they have done so, had it not been for the blunder made upon his tombstone in West Woods Cemetery:

Died, April 31, 1838.

COLONEL BELLAMY

The second gravestone erected in Mount Carmel Cemetery was the one that marked the last resting place of Samuel Bellamy, who died in 1760. He was one of the first settlers in Mount Carmel Parish, coming there in 1743 to establish the famous tavern, which his widow and son continued to manage after his death. The son, Samuel, 2d, was prominent in every kind of town activity, five times selectman, twice representative to the General Assembly, first Masonic master in Day Spring Lodge, colonel of a regiment of militia, and a leader in the Mount Carmel church, whose earliest Society meetings were held in his tavern. It was an obscure committee in Hamden affairs which did not list his name. But in spite of all this and his prosperous inn, he sold his place in 1804 to Noah Barber—the lovely home with its broad lawns, tall poplars, and clusters of thick, sweet-smelling lilac bushes, forty-six

acres in all—for \$5,000. Later he disposed of fifty acres more for \$2,000 and moved to Skaneateles, New York, where he became a comparatively rich man. A logical reason for his decision to leave Hamden was that his wife was a Bradley, and that her brother Daniel Bradley had removed to New York State as a part of the migration of Mount Carmel and other Connecticut people into western Massachusetts, eastern New York, and Vermont, immediately after the Revolution. Todds, Atwaters, Tuttles, and other Hamden family names were among those appearing in pioneer settlements in those states. Many of them had served with the militia in the Lake Champlain region, militia which General Gates called “the two excellent militia regiments from Connecticut,” and doubtless the descriptions of beautiful country which they brought back inspired others to go out there. The Mount Carmel families who left Hamden to settle in these distant places had been church members and public-spirited citizens, who carried with them the bold self-reliance, native shrewdness, and the fear of God, which were the characteristic traits eventually carried by Connecticut emigrants to every state in the Union.

Colonel Bellamy and his wife made their home near Daniel Bradley. The Bellamys had no children and no natural heirs, so that when the Colonel was solicited for a subscription to the proposed theological school in near-by Auburn, he not only responded generously but in time gave to it his entire estate, only excepting a \$600 annuity to his widow. His will gave the seminary \$60,000 and made it residuary legatee as well. In 1820 he laid the cornerstone for the school. Into it went a silver medal inscribed with his name and that of an-

other donor, and the words: "Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a chief cornerstone, elect, precious."

Colonel Bellamy nevertheless was so far forgotten by this favored institution that a recent inquiry made to it elicited the sad fact that only the dates of his birth and death and when he joined the church were known there, and that a professorship bore his name. Hamden records remembered him far better, which seems to prove that man's most lasting memorial is shown in the hearts of those who were his closest friends. Although he left his tangible wealth to the Auburn Seminary, the memory of what he really was remained in the place where he had contributed the intrinsic values of himself.

THE BLUE HILLS COMMON FIELD

The Blue Hills Common Field had been laid out in 1721 by a committee of New Haven Colony, one member being Isaac Dickerman. In 1807 a group of men signed a court petition in which they showed themselves proprietors of more than two thirds of an 800-acre tract of land, being the whole of the Eighth and Ninth Divisions in the Blue Hills. The court permitted the petitioners to improve the tract as a common field, and authorized them to do so with all the powers and privileges by law appertaining to proprietors of common fields.

Although the jurisdiction of proprietors had diminished almost to nothing after the formation of parishes and towns and the consequent transfer of most of the land to such groups, still up to the close of the Revolution they had occasionally been of influence. One in-

stance of this was the contracting by proprietors for royalties from the copper mines in the Blue Hills.

On this petition were such names as Tuttle, Munson, and Dickerman. In 1808 they voted to enclose the Blue Hills with a "good and sufficient fence erected around the hills and made into one common field." In 1809 the fees for impounding cattle, horses, sheep, and swine within the enclosure were to be "dubble" the amount set by law. In 1812 a committee chosen by the proprietors of the north and south tiers of land on the Blue Hills portioned out each one's share of the fence: "to Jonathan Dickerman, 65 rods, to heirs of Medad Todd, 43 rods, 5 links," etc. Haywards and fence viewers were regularly chosen. It was once voted "that the fence set out to Chauncey Dickerman by the proprietors committee, from Eli Tuttle's land running down to James Wyles' garden, stand where it now is." They voted to tax themselves six cents on the acre to defray necessary expenses, and one third of the poundage fee was assigned to the pound-keeper. After the enclosure was no longer of value for poundage or for cutting quantities of saleable wood (1842), the proprietors ceased to meet or to keep up the fence.

JONATHAN MIX, INVENTOR

Jonathan Mix was born in New Haven in 1753 and had an active and exciting military life during the Revolution. He lived in Hamden after his second marriage, to Elizabeth Phipps, who inherited the Tuttle family homestead at Cherry Hill. The place was best known in later years when their daughter Nancy lived in a new house there after her marriage to Elihu Blake.* In

* 1836 Elihu built the new house.

1807 Jonathan Mix invented "the elliptic and thorough brace carriage spring," the principle of which was to substitute iron or wood for leather spring thorough-braces for carriages, and to give more elasticity and durability at less expense. The springs of each axle were reduced in number to one, and that was fixed to the center of the axletree, supporting the shafts. The United States patent on this invention, embodying the fundamental idea of wagon and vehicle springs of all kinds, bore the imposing signatures of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Attorney General C. A. Rodney.

A certificate of excellence, signed by many subscribers, made known to the public their preference for Mix's springs above all others, stating that

after mature deliberation we do hereby give it our opinion that they are the safest and most convenient and best springs ever invented or made use of. In our opinion a stage fixed on Mix's Axletree springs is not so liable to upset, . . . and the passengers will be transported much more to their ease and satisfaction.

Mr. Mix also invented a cartridge box for troops and, with Robert Fulton's coöperation, a device which carried away the smoke from the fuses of ships' guns. This invention was used on Fulton's steam frigate.

In 1814 Caleb Alling paid a tax of \$4 "on his chaise hanging on steel springs," which then were new and luxurious—the automobile tax of his day.

Said to be one of the earliest manufacturers of steel carriage springs in the country was Charles Brockett of Mount Carmel who, upon his retirement from business at the beginning of the Civil War, became first select-man of Hamden.

Charles Brockett was a descendant of John Brockett who laid out New Haven's nine original squares. His father, Hezekiah, lived on the south corner of the Cheshire Turnpike and Tuttle Avenue, just north of the mountain, where he maintained a cooperage business. He made convenient use of an enormous oak tree, from a branch of which he suspended a chain to hold his inverted hogsheads in place over a fire for the purpose of properly charring the inner surfaces. Many weekly gatherings of Dog Lane Court convened in the ample shade of the "Hezekiah Brockett Oak." This venerable tree, measuring eighteen feet ten inches in circumference, may at that time have been growing for more than two hundred years.

Before he was a cooper, Mr. Brockett was a sea captain. At one time when he did not go on a certain planned voyage, he dreamed that the vessel had gone down, woke his wife, and told her of his dream. The ship never came back in any event, and he believed that it sank that very night.

The casks that Hezekiah Brockett made were destined to be filled with molasses or rum in the active West Indies trade of which New Haven held so large a share, and in which he once sailed a vessel. Hamden men carried on an extensive business in making and selling hoops in this market. The work in the woods during the winter months nicely augmented their labors at farming the rest of the year. The average price obtained for hardwood hoops was \$20 to \$40 a thousand. New Haven coopers also bought great quantities of hickory poles.

Charles Vanden Heuvel, who lived a part of the year in what later became the Webb homestead in Spring Glen, was owner of rich sugar estates in the

West Indies, from which he shipped his sweets to exchange in the New Haven market for casks, hoops, staves, and horses and mules. Hickory poles from Hamden were among the planters' greatest demands.

An unusual business, that of carrying Fair Haven oysters in small kegs to Albany, New York, was conducted by Seymour Dickerman of Mount Carmel in 1811. When visiting an uncle who lived in Albany, Seymour gave some sample kegs of oysters to local people, who soon became the nucleus of a prosperous winter business (the oysters were too perishable for warm-weather sale). In the days when oxen were the common means of travel, Seymour drove a four-horse team which was greatly admired.

James Wyles operated a grist mill equipped with a dry kiln for preparing corn meal for market. This was at the spot where Joel Munson's mill stood at Mount Carmel, in the gap where Roaring Brook and Eaton Brook met and were dammed, with the mountain forming an abutment. From the mill to New Haven for shipment, Mr. Wyles used to send an ox team daily during six months of the year loaded with three hogsheads of meal, each weighing about one thousand pounds. Nearly all the corn was raised in Hamden; some was perhaps from adjoining towns, as this was the only mill in the locality with a dry kiln to prepare meal for foreign markets. A single purchase of seven thousand bushels of grain appeared on the books, as well as the sale of quantities of gin.

Joel Munson had added a sort of store to his mill in the early days of its operation. This feature of the establishment was in 1785 conducted by Dr. Elisha Chapman, who had purchased land in Mount Carmel in 1778 and married the senior Samuel Bellamy's daughter Re-

becca. In 1784 he was one of the organizers of the New Haven County Medical Society. He and Joel Munson were said to have been slave owners. He was a Hamden selectman in 1792, but he moved to North Haven soon after selling the store in 1795 to Ezra Kimberly and Levi Tuttle, the latter in a few years selling out to his partner. Ezra Kimberly obtained permission from the selectmen to use part of the old highway, by promising to keep a horseshed there for public convenience. In 1802 he bought the mill property which included a grist mill, kiln drying works, fulling mill and press, apparatus for drying cloth, and an old saw-mill stand with the iron. He carried on an active business until Mr. Wyles took over the mill and dry kiln. Roderick Kimberly continued the family interest in the store and in what was, in 1827, called a clothier's shop.

The Kimberly mill was one of the three places in the town where homespun could be treated. In the southern part of town, many people washed their sheep at a small bridge a short distance above Mr. Whitney's factory. The sheep were driven onto the bridge and penned in by closing the bridge at both ends, then one at a time they were handed over the side to the washer, who stood in water three or four feet in depth, just deep enough to prevent the sheep from struggling. Some families removed the dirt from the wool and carded it by hand, then making a roll which they spun into yarn on a spinning wheel. A Mrs. Hawley who lived in Whitneyville, and a Mrs. Bradley of Hamden Plains, did weaving as a business.

Another old Hamden mill which extended its enterprise to a new function was the Bradley mill on Grimsden Hill (now West Todd Street). It had been a saw mill from 1730 to 1786, when Job Munson took it over.

He was deeded the right to divert water from Eaton's Brook into the brook which fed his mill, and the marks of the trench are visible to this day, running back of residences on Hillfield Road. Flour from his mill was carried to New Haven, and shipped to foreign markets.

Many amusing stories are told of him, one being that he sold some turnips, saying that he had been fattening pigs on them. When the buyer later complained that his pigs were not getting fat, Job said, "I usually mix meal with mine, and I always get better results when I use a lot of meal." It was also said that he pulled teeth, and never charged anyone for the service.

He operated a distillery in conjunction with his saw mill, and in 1808 he leased to the Shipman-Dennison Company "the distillery barn, malt house, and the land for hop sty and cattle yard" at an annual rental of \$10. On December 27, 1808, the following notice appeared in the *Connecticut Herald*: "Shipman-Dennison Co. wish to purchase a quantity of rye to be delivered at their distillery in Hamden, for which cash will be paid on delivery." An advertisement appeared in the same paper in the following year: "Country gin of the first quality by the pipe or less quantities for sale by Shipman-Dennison Co., New Haven, Feb. 7, 1809."

When in 1817 the distillery lease came to Seymour Bradley, who was the youngest of Joel's nine children, his wife helped him in the business, and at his death in 1821 she carried it on successfully for many years. She was known to most of her acquaintances as "Aunt Livvy," and it was said of her that she could lift a barrel of liquor from a wagon to the ground, setting it on its chimb with ease. The distillery was doubtless the reason for naming the near-by street Still Hill Road.

HAMDEN DESCRIBED

In the *Gazeteer of the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island*, published by Pease and Niles in 1810, there is a brief description of Hamden, which speaks of the town as being situated between two greenstone ranges, and refers to the soil as gravelly loam, generally fertile, with walnut and oak and other deciduous trees, and "good and heavy crops of rye, corn and oats." Industries listed are the Whitney Arms Company, a paper mill, a fulling mill and carding machine (doubtless referring to those at the Munson dam), a distillery, two grain mills, two tanneries, two mercantile stores, and two taverns. Also listed were the two Congregational churches and Societies, the Episcopal church, the Independents, nine school districts, one social library, two clergymen, and two physicians. The population was 1,716, with 260 dwelling houses and 200 electors. There was a company of militia. Taxable property was listed at \$36,806.

THE WAR OF 1812

The company of militia to which the *Gazeteer* referred was the Seventeenth Company of the Second Regiment. Its captain during the War of 1812 was Leverett Tuttle, and his company roll, plus men drafted from Hamden, included the following:

Daniel Ashton	Merrit Blakeslee
Timothy Andrews, Jr.	Mathew Blakeslee
James Atwater	Jason Bassett
Stephen Atwater	Jared Benham
Daniel Austin	Levi Baldwin
Harvey Bradley	Joseph Ball

John Babcock	William Maynard
Ira Cooper	Ebenezer Mansfield
Ezra Cooper	Lyman Mansfield
Philo Curtis	Lyman Munson
Ezekiel Dorman	Dearing Munson
Edmund Dorman	John Potter
Lyman Dorman	William Peck
Eli Humiston	David Smith
Andrew Hopkins	Nathaniel Turner
Isaac Jones	Joseph Warner
Daniel Little	David Warner
Thomas Mix	Samuel Whiting
Zenas Mix	

The Seventh Company of the Second Regiment, led by Captain Ambrose Tuttle, brother of Leverett, was made up of Mount Carmel men, many of whom were sent on coast-guard duty as far away as New London and Groton. The muster roll included among others:

Seymour Dickerman	Riley Tuttle
Whitney Dickerman	Jesse Cooper
Amos Dickerman	Benjamin Peck
Russell Ives	Jesse Doolittle
Andrew Goodyear	Truman Sanford
Aaron Chatterton	Austin Bradley
Josiah Todd	Austin Munson
Elam Warner	Ichabod Hitchcock
Hezekiah Brockett	Ezra Kimberly

Captain Jared Whiting led one hundred Hamden soldiers who responded to the call for assistance in strengthening the fortifications at Fort Wooster on the New Haven shore. Newspaper accounts said that they helped in throwing up earthworks with great industry, and they were saluted and applauded by New Haven citizens as they returned homeward.

Hamden shared the general New England dislike of the war, which worked far greater hardships on the Northern states than on the Southern, for practically all the commerce of the country was centered in the North. The embargo and blockade hurt them badly, for they not only were largely dependent for their living upon shipping trade but many were also in the carrying trade, using their ships for hire.

When President Madison called for Connecticut's state militia to invade Canada, Governor Griswold refused, saying that the Constitution specified only three purposes for which state militia could be called out of the state: "To execute the laws of the Union, to suppress rebellion, and to repel invasion." And Massachusetts and Rhode Island took the same stand. The Connecticut General Assembly went on record as saying that the war was "unnecessary."

Elam Ives, who lived on the west bank of Mill River on the road from Mount Carmel into North Haven, was fifty years of age when the war began. During the Revolution he had volunteered his services for the defense of New Haven, and now again he saw a way in which he could serve his country. He established a freight line consisting of two wagons, each drawn by two yoke of oxen and a horse, to transport valuable goods between New York and Boston in company with other similar lines, which for all their puny size were the only regular service between the two cities, all traffic by water being prevented by the blockade. Long Island Sound was blockaded for two years of the war.

The wagons, which were driven by Ives's sons, Parsons and Jason, who were aged twenty-one and seventeen at the time, were quite unusual conveyances. Each of them was a box 13 feet long, 4 feet wide, and eighteen

inches high, mounted on two cart wheels and two wagon wheels. It was capable of carrying twice as much as an ordinary wagon.

The distance of 230 miles from New York to Boston could hardly have been covered in less than a week by ox power. Hamden was extremely proud of the oxen raised and exhibited by local farmers, and doubtless the yokes used were of the best strain. The Ives boys were of the third generation of their family in Hamden. When James Ives, Elam's father, lay in his last illness at his farmhouse east of Mill River, he said sadly: "The sun has got up before me this morning, which it has not done before in 20 years." He was a sturdy pioneer settler in the town, and his son Elam also was a pioneer, in the field of industry, twice serving his country in war and early training his sons Parsons and Jason to follow the family's traditional and virile leadership in the community.

HAMDEN PLAINS METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In early colonial times, ministers of the gospel were leaders in the affairs of their flock—well educated, and usually of natural superior ability. The people gave much attention to religion and the contemplation of the hereafter, hoping to achieve in the future life the joys which this life did not yield them. But as industry and commerce gradually brought them a moderate prosperity, they began to feel that perhaps man as well as God might influence their destiny, and that temporal joys were attainable. Ministers were confronted with the new problem of worldliness.

It was in this era that the Methodist Episcopal Church in Hamden had its beginnings, and the difficul-

ties with which it had to contend were many. Its location was in a part of the town where there were already two groups of Congregationalists with their favored background of the established church, who outnumbered and outweighed in influence all dissenting religious groups. Far from encouraging were the experiences of the New Haven Methodists, who had formed in 1795. Their first meetings had been held in a rented building, where much disturbance was deliberately created by a gang of ruffians, and on one occasion the pulpit had been hewn in pieces. But the worshipers were not dismayed, and persisted in holding their classes. By 1807 they had succeeded in acquiring their own building.

When Amasa Tuttle and his wife Sybil moved to Hamden from Derby in 1810, Sybil, who was already a Methodist, joined the New Haven group. Her husband was not a member of the church, but he assisted her when she set out to organize a church in Hamden. Many women whose exploits cannot be told for lack of records contributed their share to the important work of building the town of Hamden, but Sybil Tuttle was the first woman who was known to have led an important public undertaking.

She persuaded the New Haven Methodists to hold services in Hamden and for two years they were conducted in her home, which was near the northwest corner of the Hamden Plains Cemetery. It was there that the first class was formed on December 27, 1813, and the members were Sybil Tuttle, Amos Benham and his wife Ruth, Isaac Benham, Rebecca Dorman, and Timothy Andrews and his wife Sybil. These last two had been among the founders of the Congregational Society, and a letter from Timothy to the pastor of the

East Plains church relates his reasons for changing his place of worship:

To Abraham Alling, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Hamden East Plain Society—My reasons for leaving this church are, an *unfaithful minister* and *unfaithful members*. I have for several years been fully persuaded that there was a neglect as to that pastoral care that is meted out in the scriptures and pursued by all the faithful ministers of the Lord Jesus. It has been a matter of real grief to me which I have again and again made known to you in Christian plainness. Neglecting a proper attention to church discipline has produced a church of unfaithful members. With them I have had cause of grievance and complaint, and faithfully used my influence to have them removed; and after mature trial to no essential effect, I have left you for more than a year and eight months. I have been united with the Methodists, where both Doctrine and Discipline is attended to agreeable to apostolic usages, and love and fellowship prevail. TIMOTHY ANDREWS. N.B. Should the association require it, I could state the particulars in form.

The records of the East Plains Church show that in 1819 "Timothy Andrews and wife, and Mrs. Amos Benham" were dropped from membership.

In 1814 forty conversions in a revival made roomier quarters necessary. Mrs. Amos Benham, so recently of the other church, proved a valuable benefactor to the Methodists, to whom she deeded in 1819 the land on which the first church building was erected, a structure still standing on Circular Avenue, only 21 by 22 feet in size. The Congregational church was a short distance to the east, and about a mile to the northwest was the meetingplace of Caleb Alling's Strict Congregationalists.

Reverend Abraham Alling lived in the hills three miles to the northwest, and regularly—always astride his black horse—passed by the Methodist church on the way to his own. One Sunday morning he told his congregation that in order to reach them he was obliged to pass “the gates of hell.” Despite the intense rivalry that existed between the two churches, they used the same burial ground until 1834. Edward B. Alling comments as follows on this situation: “While it is true that they dwelt together in life not always ‘in unity,’ yet in accordance with what they believed was right, we may also say that ‘in death they were not divided.’ ”

The hearse which was used by the community stood in the sheds adjoining the Methodist meetinghouse. It was a plain vehicle, with a raised platform that was not covered. On this the coffin was placed, and the church bell solemnly tolled the number of years which the deceased had lived, as he was borne to his last resting place.

In both churches keeping order during the services was a problem, as boys from one church group would visit the rival service for the express purpose of making a disturbance, and in this mischievous practice, sad to say, they were encouraged by their parents. Tythingmen were appointed in town meetings, and their oft-times unpleasant duties included the enforcement of proper conduct within and without the churches. During worship they had to keep children quiet and adults awake. The tythingman carried a long black rod, tipped on one end with a deer’s hoof or a brass knob with which to chastise restless boys, and on the other with a squirrel’s tail for tickling sleeping members into attention.

Sometimes the tythingman sat at the front of the church facing the audience—men on one side of the

aisle and women on the other; sometimes he sat in the gallery to keep the boys in; but more often he was stationed at the door, so that dogs and swine, which still were allowed to run at large, could not enter. Because he was responsible for church attendance by everyone, he would observe any vacant seats, and then go out to explore the horsesheds for truant members.

When Ezra Alling, 2d, was tythingman, he made complaint to the justice of the peace

that on the evening of the 30th day of July last [1825], at the meetinghouse of the society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Hamden, a number of people having then and there assembled for the public worship of God, and while they were engaged in such worship, Joel Dorman of said Hamden did wilfully interrupt and disturb said assembly and the worship thereof, and did then and there at said assembly and during the solemnity of their religious worship, speak various words with an audible voice, and did also whisper and laugh, and in a contemptuous and disorderly manner walk on and over the benches and seats in said meeting house and across the said house, and talk and laugh out at the doors of said meeting house and within the hearing of said assembly with intent to interrupt and disturb the said assembly during the public worship as aforesaid, against the peace, of evil example, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided; wherefore the said tythingman prays the advice of your worship in the premises.

Mr. Alling also complained of Henry Woodin (both boys were from Congregationalist families). A colonial member of the Woodin family was also of a mischievous disposition, as the records showed!

This church, according to the customs of the times, had no stoves, and the worshipers were dependent for warmth on the fires of the spirit.

THE SECOND BUILDING OF GRACE CHURCH

By 1818 Grace Episcopal Church was dissatisfied with its location in Mount Carmel. As steps were being taken to have the parish include all of Hamden, the church building was sold and a new one erected near the crossroads corner in Centerville, on land purchased of Uriah Foote "for the consideration of \$16.87½." The new building measured 48 by 35 feet. An architect described the interior as having beautiful Ionic columns, with carved scroll capitals embellished with Grecian border and elaborate dentil work (small rectangular blocks in a series projecting like teeth). *The Churchman's Magazine* spoke of the church as "a chaste and commodious edifice." In April, 1820, application was made to the General Assembly "for the privilege of a Lottery for the benefit of the Episcopal Society in Hamden, for the purpose of completing and defraying the expenses which have arisen in consequence of the church which is building by said Society." Although it may today appear to have been a credit to the church that this lottery was never held, yet in those days it was a common and respected method of raising money.

MEETINGS IN WEST WOODS

Little is known of the Baptist group in West Woods, except that Jesse Dickerman (1752-1821) of Mount Carmel bequeathed to it \$100, the interest from which was to be used toward the support of a minister! Although ministers in general were accustomed to salaries that were too small to support them, this bequest suggests a meager minimum. Some ministers of the Hamden Plains Church received yearly salaries of from

\$100 to \$300. In later years Ezra Dickerman of Mount Carmel taught a Sunday School in West Woods before attending services in his own church, and then went in the afternoon to Quinnipiac to conduct a Sunday School there.

THE STATE CONSTITUTION

Though the people of the state had long acquiesced under the form of government derived from the Charter and sanctioned by the legislature; yet it was considered by many that we had no constitution, as our government under the Charter had never received the explicit approbation of the people subsequent to the Declaration of Independence. It was also considered to be inconsistent with the dignity of a free nation to hold their rights even nominally by the tenure of a Royal Grant, and that it was proper if the government should be divided into separate departments, and individual rights be secured by a constitution that should control the legislature itself. It was therefore thought advisable to call a convention for that object.*

Amasa Bradley was moderator of the Hamden town meeting on January 5, 1818, which voted:

Resolved, that the representative of this town in the next General Assembly be, and he is hereby requested, to use his influence that measures be immediately taken for forming a written constitution of civil government for the State of Connecticut, and that the town clerk furnish said representative with a certified copy of the foregoing resolution.

In July, "at a meeting of the qualified voters in town and freemen's meeting," Russell Pierpont was chosen delegate to the convention at the State House in

* *Connecticut State Manual.*

Hartford August 4, 1818, meeting for the purpose of forming a state constitution. The vote in the convention was 134 to 61, and when the Constitution was submitted to the vote of the people, it was approved by a state vote of 13,918 in its favor and 12,364 against.

Of special interest to Hamden people was the provision for all forms of religious worship without discrimination, no preference being given by law to any Christian sect of any mode of worship.

The Federalist political party, staunch supports of the established church, had been long in power; but after the War of 1812 great gains were made by the Republican party (called the Toleration party) through not only their demands for tax relief and extension of suffrage, but through the support given them by other than Congregationalist groups. Hamden was in a section of the state where Episcopalians and Methodists in particular were strong supporters of the Toleration party who favored the new Constitution.

In the Constitution the qualifications for voting were made really democratic, the franchise being extended to those admitted as freemen, white male citizens of twenty-one and over "having a freehold estate of the yearly value of \$7.00," and those also who had performed a prescribed amount of military service.

Like other New England politically minded people, Hamden citizens may have been still smarting from the chagrin of the Hartford Convention of 1815, where plans to secede from the nation had failed to materialize only because the war and the embargo ended. To be associated with the Federalist party was now distinctly unpopular.

The new Constitution reaffirmed the inviolability of the School Fund in its perpetual use for public schools.

Other changes of interest were the division of governmental functions into three departments—executive, legislative, and judicial; judges were given life tenure; the Senate was no longer adviser to the governor. A strong governor was not wanted; the Constitution sanctioned an omnipotent legislature—President Timothy Dwight of Yale said that it could do anything but change the result of an election!

The last year in which freemen were made in Hamden was 1834. In the year 1800 there were fifty-one admitted, among them Isaac Woodin and Roger Dorman—old familiar Hamden names, and Sackett Benham who was probably a descendant of the original Sackett. Russell Leek became a freeman in 1821 and his brother Horace in 1826; Harvey Bradley, Hamden Plains storekeeper, in 1830; and Willis Churchill who founded the Auger Shop, in 1834.

Of particular interest was Giles Dunbar, who was made a freeman in 1813, served as a town hayward in 1827, and was a member of the Mount Carmel church. When horseback was the only means of travel, he staked his claim to a lovely spot in the place which has since been called by his name. His house stood on the brow of the hill near Main Street on Building Brook, which he used as water power to run a small woolen mill. This mill stood west of the site of the most recent Dunbar school.

HAMDEN'S OLD HOUSES

On Todd Street, Mount Carmel, stands a house built in 1745 by Lazarus Ives, which is now the property of William Todd. It stands on Third Division Sequestered Land that was first assigned to Richard Miles. There

is a low colonial roof, a massive chimney, and the rooms have fine paneling.

“In the twelfth year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Anne” Queen of Great Britain, in 1713, Abraham and Isaac Dickerman deeded to Joseph Cooper the tract where in 1746 he built a house of the same style as the one built by Lazarus Ives. The rooms were built around a huge chimney, and there were four fireplaces. Two of the mantels are very beautiful, one being of the rising-sun pattern and the other consisting of a row of arches. The house stands on Whitney Avenue opposite Hartley Street, and is best known as the Hartley homestead.

A Hamden landmark is the Peck homestead. Originally it stood on the main road, but Wilbur Case moved it to its present location on Todd Street, restored it, and added it to another Peck house, said to have been built in 1740. Almost all of the original window panes are intact, and most of the interior hand-carved paneling. There are five fireplaces leading into the chimney, whose base is 12 feet square, tapering to 4 feet in the attic. An old slaughter house, said to be as old as the house, stands near it, containing equipment used by colonial butchers nearly two hundred years ago.

The house built by Reverend Nathaniel Sherman south of Mount Carmel Congregational Church was begun in 1769 and finished in 1772.

The Ford house, on the corner of Waite Street and Ford Street, was built in 1769 by Moses Ford (1714-1822). Minotte Chatfield, whose mother was Cornelia Ford, says that both his grandfather and great-grandfather were born in this house; yet one of the latter was listed as born in New Haven (about 1784) and the other as born in Hamden (about 1809). When the Eli

Whitney boarding-house on Armory Street was wrecked to make way for the row of stone houses for factory workers, two of its bull's-eye-windowed doors were removed to the Ford house. These doors are now in the possession of the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

The Jonathan Dickerman house, leased by the Hamden Historical Society from the Sleeping Giant Park Association, was built in 1770. It has an overhanging roof and double front doors, and its color is responsible for its name of the Old Red House.

The Miller homestead on the main road in Mount Carmel, a short distance above the Mount Carmel Church, was built in 1778 and moved across the street from its original location in 1822. There is a black band around the chimney, of the type used in the Revolution to indicate that the owner was a Tory and loyal to King George III.

The Justus Humiston house on Whitney Avenue across from Elihu Street was built in 1789, and is still owned by a descendant, Elihu Turner. The front door facing the south is particularly beautiful, flanked by strips of glass panes and topped by a dentiled cornice.

Miss Alice Peck's house on Hillfield Road, West Woods, was erected in 1794 by Joseph Peck, her great-grandfather, who hammered out the nails for it on his own anvil. Joseph was the son of Amos Peck, a founder of the North or United Church in New Haven, who moved to Mount Carmel in 1754 and was one of the first deacons in the Mount Carmel Congregational Church, serving from 1768 to 1783. Joseph's grandfather was Henry Peck, an original settler in New Haven. The house in which Amos and Joseph first lived was across the street. Besides nails, Amos made

needles with which his wife Lois sewed home made cloth. They rode on horseback nine miles to attend services at the North Church, sometimes taking their children on pillions.

In the earlier days much of the long rough road to church was through the forest, and it was many times traveled in storm and cold under great difficulties. Their attendance was, at least part of the time, voluntary; and trained as they were in the stern ways of the church, they felt the need of the Word of God. Lois, who used to tell of picking huckleberries on New Haven Green, lived to be one hundred years old.

The first Eli Whitney's model barn, on the west side of Whitney Avenue near Armory Street, was built in 1816. It has the prominent feature of arcades applied as decorations against the front, and a patterned slate roof. The barn enjoyed national fame. When President James Madison came to Hamden to give Mr. Whitney the first government contract for firearms to be awarded a private armory, he stopped the carriage as he was leaving, and said, "There! I have not looked at that barn!"

In 1819, Jared Bassett built a beautiful house on Dixwell Avenue near where the trolley line now ends. It has since been moved up to the old Dixwell Road above Skiff Street. It is one of the finest examples of the Adam period of colonial architecture, and has dentiled bands over the door, above the windows, and around the eaves.

These are by no means all of Hamden's beautiful landmarks. Some others are of uncertain date, and their stories are probably not so colorful. Among them are the Hezekiah Bassett house on Cannon Street, dating from 1806; the old James Ives house on Ives Street,

and the Alfred Dickerman house in Mount Carmel, now occupied by Mrs. Eli Ives.

“Some of the dear old homes are abiding still,
By the northern mount and the western hill.”

The McKeon house, known as the toll-gate house, on Whitney Avenue in Mount Carmel is not impressive as to exterior architecture, but is unique because it was built by Orrin Todd with hand labor throughout, having careful work on such details as the fine moldings and window sash. It was built across the turnpike and moved when the Farmington Canal was built. Orrin's father, Simeon Todd (1769-1834), had a forge on which he made nails and oxen-and-horseshoes. He burned his charcoal on the top of the mountain, repelling bears by firebrands from the burning pit. He made his own buildings and some for his neighbors, hauling the timber and framing it by the old scribe rule. Simeon's brother Obed set up a water power on the brook south of his house, where he made carts and wagons. Three generations before these brothers was Ithamar Todd, who built his house in 1734 a mile east of the river on the south side of the mountain. Ithamar, in 1760, was paid £5 by the town of New Haven to build a bridge which the road viewers deemed necessary “on the road past Joel Munson's house.” Five generations lived on the original Todd property, and all were builders.

ITHIEL TOWN'S COVERED BRIDGE

In 1821, the Hartford Turnpike Company was planning to replace the bridge over Mill River beside Whitney's armory, and Simeon Baldwin wrote for advice to Ithiel Town, the architect. Town was well known for

having built Center and Trinity Churches on the New Haven Green in 1814 and 1815. Great engineering skill had been employed in erecting the lovely spire of Center Church, 210 feet high, which was constructed within the brick part of the tower. It was raised into position with an ingenious windlass and tackle, in two and one half hours. A few years later Mr. Town built the Old State House behind Center Church, a well-proportioned Doric building imitative of the Temple of Theseus in Athens. In 1820 he patented a new type of bridge, of pure truss construction, self-contained and supported only by the piers.

Mr. Baldwin knew Town to be an expert, yet after describing the turnpike company's difficulties, he wrote:

We have turned our attention to your plan, of which we think very favorably, provided it can be accomplished without too much expense.

The fact is, the Company are really poor. The road never yielded one per cent, frequently nothing, and on an average not a half of 1% on the capital. Under these circumstances we are induced to hope and believe you will not claim much, if anything, for your patent rights, especially as your bridges have not been introduced into this state, and if this shall succeed, it may be useful to you and the public.

Your opinions, with your consent or terms, will enable us to decide. Will you have the goodness to write me immediately, as the season is advancing and we must soon engage our timber for some kind or other. We have proposed chestnut for the braces, string pieces, etc.

I am, with respect and esteem, your friend,

SIMEON BALDWIN

Whether or not Mr. Town was paid for the use of his patent, the Whitneyville bridge was built according

to it in 1823, and had the distinction of being the first truss bridge in the United States. It had 100 feet clear span, and side bracings of 3-inch planks crossing each other at an angle of 80 degrees and spaced 4 feet, center to center. These were securely pinned together and held top and bottom by stringers on each side, measuring 12 by 5½ inches. There was no mortising of the timber anywhere; pin connections only were relied upon. The bridge was symmetrical vertically and would have been equally strong if turned upside down. Professor Joseph Roe of Yale says:

Town's truss bridge was widely used for highways and the early railway bridges. There were long ones across the Susquehanna, the Hudson, and other streams throughout this country, Canada and Europe. One of the reasons for its wide use was the fact that it contained little or no iron work, called for ordinary plank-ing, had no mortises and tenons in the construction, and therefore could be erected from materials available everywhere by ordinary carpenters. One bridge of 200 ft. span, which was 120 ft. above a river bed, is said to have been erected by local labor in two weeks. While the design was especially well adapted for timber construction, it was utilized also in the early iron bridges. Aside from his standing as an architect, Town became the best known bridge builder in the country at that time, and his royalties of \$1.00 per foot span gave him a comfortable income for life.

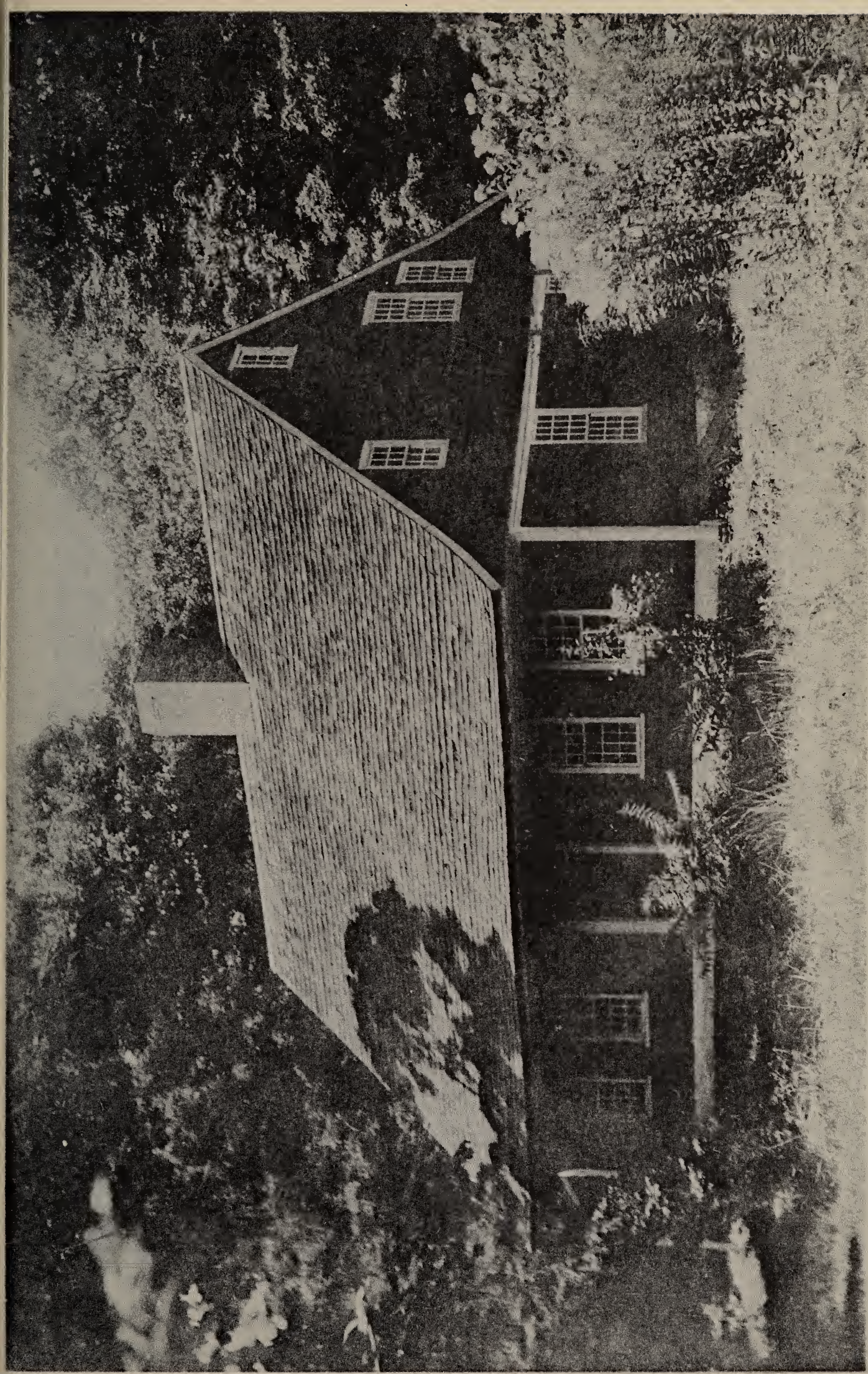
Among the several books which Mr. Town wrote was one called *Improvement in the Construction of Wood and Iron Bridges*, containing plates and a frontispiece engraved by S. S. Jocelyn showing "Town's Bridge." This picture was doubtless the old covered bridge over Lake Whitney.

THE FARMINGTON CANAL

Travel facilities in Connecticut in 1822 were poor enough, the ordinary highways being muddy in spring, sandy and dusty in summer, and deep with snow through the winter. Toll was charged on the turnpike, and stagecoach travel was limited. In May of 1822, the *Post-Coach Line Dispatch* advertised that the line left Hartford at eleven o'clock every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning, making the trip to New Haven in six hours, "running through Farmington, Southington and Cheshire, arriving at New Haven at five o'clock in time for the steamboat. . . . The above line of Post Coaches are new and in modern style, horses selected with great care and are first-rate, drivers are experienced, careful and steady."

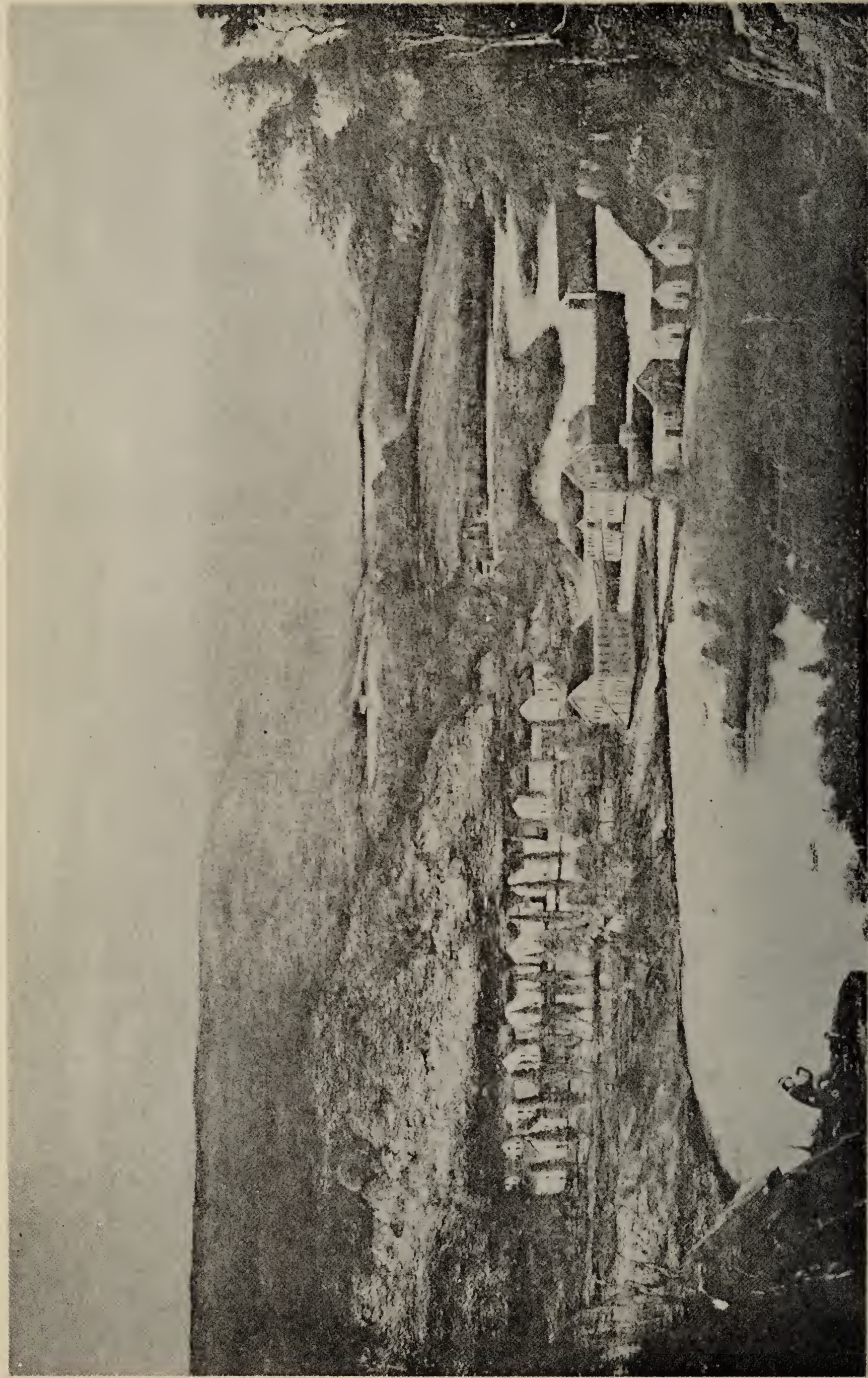
Steamboat travel on the Connecticut River had begun a few years earlier (1815). Rivalry for trade was intense between Hartford and New Haven, and after 260 miles of the Erie Canal had been completed in New York State, prominent men in New Haven began to dream of a similar trade route to the north, running from tidewater at New Haven to the Massachusetts border and beyond. This waterway would divert to New Haven much of the trade that was going through Hartford, and would provide means of transportation for inland towns, which could then be both agriculturally and industrially important. The difficulties of the Connecticut River route were stressed—the falls at Hadley, the rapids at Enfield. Railroads had not come into existence yet, and in addition to better traveling accommodations, a better way of moving freight was needed.

In the first excited enthusiasm for a canal, there was talk of branches which might later extend by way of



The Jonathan Dickerman "Old Red House"

Photo by Carl J. Jensen



Whitney Armory and Covered Bridge in 1825

Gift of Arnold G. Dana

Lake Memphremagog to connect with the St. Lawrence River in Canada.

Representatives of seventeen towns conferred on January 28, 1822, at Farmington to plan the canal. The city of New Haven held a special meeting in the Old State House, on April 1 (some say that the April Fool's date was appropriate). Their decision was,

Whereas it has been represented to this meeting that an application will be made to the next General Assembly for the establishment of a canal from the tide-water in New Haven to the north line of this state, at Southwick through the town of Farmington, and also through New Hartford to Berkshire County; this meeting taking into consideration the subject matter of said application and believing that the establishment of the proposed canal will be highly honorable to the state and greatly beneficial to a large proportion of our citizens, therefor voted that this meeting do consent that said canal may be established. . . .

A Cheshire town meeting voted its consent in precisely the same words.

Hamden held a special meeting on April 1, "warned on account of the canal from New Haven to Farmington," but it was "voted to adjourn without day," showing nothing of the feeling of townspeople either for or against it, whether there was hot debate or utter indifference. More interest might have been shown, had it been realized how much Hamden was to be benefited by the canal.

The New Haven "Canalers," who were so competitive with Hartford "Riverites," laid their plans for securing legislative approval with great shrewdness, saying little until the even year when the General Assembly met in New Haven, where, in the spirit of a ball team which feels an advantage in playing on its

home field, they felt that their scheme had a better chance for success than it would have had in Hartford. The charter which they obtained permitted them to construct the waterway through Farmington to Southwick, with a branch up the Farmington River valley through New Hartford to the Massachusetts border at Colebrook, looking toward a future connection with the Erie Canal. Right was given for acquiring land, mills, basins, harbors, and sidecuts.

Landholders and especially mill owners along the route were not pleased with being compelled to sell to the company on demand, although some farmers showed their confidence in the project by accepting stock in the company instead of money. The preliminary survey for the route was made in 1823, and among those who did this work were George Beckwith of almanac fame and Eli Whitney Blake of Hamden, later famous for the invention of the stone crusher. Blake used in his surveys an instrument prepared by his uncle, Eli Whitney. When the survey report was submitted by Judge Benjamin Wright, chief engineer of the Erie Canal, the closing paragraph expressed this lofty encouragement:

Permit me, gentlemen, to express a strong desire to see this first project of the kind in Connecticut carried into effect, and be but the incipient step to works of internal improvement that will be a lasting monument of the enterprise and intelligence of a high-minded people.

Hopes for a long waterway were high when the state legislatures of Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire granted rights of way to the Canadian border, where still another group was prepared to continue it to the St. Lawrence River. Massachusetts granted a charter to the Hampshire and Hampden Company, by

which the Farmington route was to be extended through Southwick to the Connecticut River above Northampton. But the canal never reached beyond Northampton, and the New Hartford branch was never built.

The finished canal, eighty miles long, passed from New Haven through Hamden, Cheshire, Southington, Farmington, Simsbury, and Granby in Connecticut, and Southwick, Westfield, Southampton, and Easthampton in Massachusetts. In New Haven it followed the present course of the Northampton railroad, and in Hamden it ran alongside Dixwell Avenue, swinging away from it at Evergreen Avenue, crossing School Street and emerging just above it to follow along the general line of the Cheshire Road, bearing westward in upper Mount Carmel to run beside the present railroad track in Brooksvale. Just above the Mount Carmel Congregational Church the wide lawn was cut off from the Bellamy tavern, destroying much of its attractiveness; and the Miller homestead, the Alfred Dickerman house, and the McKeon house were moved from the path of the canal to positions across the street.

Among Hamden property owners whose land was sold to the Canal Company were Russell Pierpont, George Atwater, Roswell Todd, Anna Mansfield, Jason Dickerman, Orrin Todd, Jesse Goodyear, and Roderick Kimberly.

There were twenty-eight locks in Connecticut and thirty-two in Massachusetts. A north-bound boat was lifted 310 feet and lowered 213 feet, so that at the upper end it was 97 feet above the New Haven Harbor level.

Subscription books for the Canal Company stock were opened in July, 1823, but investors showed little interest until the General Assembly passed a bill forever

exempting it from taxation. More money had to be raised, and the directors preferred incorporating a bank to having a lottery. So the Mechanics Bank of New Haven was incorporated with a capital of \$500,000, the obligation of taking \$100,000 worth of stock in the Canal Company, and up to \$200,000 more if it should be necessary. Although the city of Farmington and New York financiers invested appreciable amounts in the project, New Haven subscribed most heavily. Of the \$2,000,000 which the canal cost, only about one fourth was raised in Massachusetts.

The business methods pursued by the Canal Company augured ill for their success. Most of the contractors were totally inexperienced and ignorant of the requirements for a project of such magnitude. They were paid largely in non-negotiable canal stock, so that only contractors with means could finish the work.

The specifications for the canal bed called for a bottom width of 20 feet, a width at water surface of about 36 feet, a 4-foot depth of water, and a towing path not more than 5 feet above the water level, nor the opposite bank not over 2 feet. In the canal cuts a shelf 10 feet wide was made for the towing path. It was utterly necessary in the upkeep of the canal to keep the banks intact, to provide enough water, and to carry off excess water after floods or heavy rains.

Much water was lost through operation of the locks, evaporation, and seepage through the soil, especially in Hamden Plains. Then, too, it was not possible to take as much water from Congamond Pond as had been anticipated. Every brook and stream which could be led into the canal was diverted to it, and at the same time spillways and waste gates had to be provided against seasonal overflows.

The canal was taken over low brooks by stone arch culverts; the ruins of some of these can still be seen and there are others in good preservation. The most pretentious aqueduct, 30 feet above the Farmington River, consisted of seven spans, each 40 feet in length, with three of the piers still standing. Here the canal was carried in a wooden trough about 12 feet wide and 6 feet deep by a truss alongside, and with a towing path on one or both sides of the trough.

Charles Rufus Harte, in studying the ruins of the Farmington aqueduct in recent years, removed his shoes and stockings and slung them about his neck while he forded the river. In midstream the shoes fell into the water and quickly swirled away, leaving to Mr. Harte the necessity of fashioning a foot protection out of an abandoned tire tube which he found on the bank! Thus shod, he made his way home by way of Hartford to New Haven.

An elaborate ceremony at Granby marked the day that work on the canal began, on July 4, 1825. Nearly three thousand people were present, including notables from Connecticut and Massachusetts. The good old custom was here observed of beginning an auspicious occasion with prayer. Honorable Timothy Pitkin read the Declaration of Independence and an "able oration" was delivered, followed by a procession two miles long, with wagons, carriages, and men on horseback, led by the Simsbury Artillery Band, from Granby to the Massachusetts line, where Governor Oliver Wolcott of Connecticut delivered the address. In turning the first sod, Governor Wolcott broke the spade, but this ill omen in no way dismayed the optimistic promoters. After an address by Burrage Beach, Esq., and the return trip, three hundred invited guests ate dinner

on Granby Green, under what Deacon Hooker of Farmington called in his diary a "bouerie." By far the most interesting equipage in the parade was that of Captain George Rowland of New Haven. He had fitted up a barge drawn by four horses, in which were seated under a white awning the Governor, the president of the Canal Company, the orator of the day, the commissioners, the engineer, and several clergymen. On the stern of the boat were painted the words "Farmington Canal," and on each side, "For Southwick and Memphremagog."

A small hole was dug out by others who followed the Governor's example, presumably with a fresh spade, thus beginning the arduous and back-breaking task of digging the Farmington Canal. Every inch was scooped out with pick and shovel, with horses and oxen hauling away the rocks and soil, which were used for fills and embankments.

The first installment payment on the stock (\$12.50) was called for in May, 1825, and this, added to the \$2 a share which subscribers already had been asked to pay, was readily forthcoming. But when so soon as August another \$12.50 was called for, considerable difficulty was experienced in collecting it. On account of the shortage of money, the work was skimped on the fills and embankments, which later broke through again and again, causing great expense; and damage to abutting property was not always paid for, thus making enemies of property owners who were sometimes accused of doing the canal malicious harm. Other installments were called for thick and fast, all for \$10, beginning in February, 1826, and continuing through June, August, September, November, and December. In 1826 the Company's stock was united with that of the Massachusetts company.

In an 1827 town meeting, Hamden voted to make Joel Ford the agent of the town, along with the selectmen, in

requesting the Farmington Canal Corporation to locate and put in immediate repair the public highways in said town which have been taken in consequence of said Canal, and also to make convenient bridges for public travel; and if said corporation refuse and neglect to locate and put in good repair said roads and bridges as aforesaid, said agent and selectmen be directed to proceed as they think proper to bring any suit against said corporation and them oblige to make such roads and bridges as they are required by law.

It would appear that as a town, as well as in the case of some property owners along the canal, Hamden thus early was irritated by the Company's laxities.

New York's Governor DeWitt Clinton, whose enthusiastic promotion of the Erie Canal had caused it to be called "Clinton's Ditch," came to Connecticut and was royally received all along the route as he viewed the canal from end to end. The Mechanics Bank paid its last part, and the ninth installment on the stock had been called for. The canal had progressed from the northern end down to Simsbury. Work on the southern end had been moving slowly, and an item in the *New Haven Register* on February 19, 1828, read:

Toward noon it was announced that the Canal was full of water, and at three in the afternoon a boat was put afloat and was lifted up all the locks in town; passing through the whole length of the Canal to the basin of Mr. Hillhouse, and returning to the last level. The crowd who witnessed the first exhibition was immense, and filled the town with joy; the bells rang, cannon fired, etc.

The *Register* reported again on September 20, 1828:

The Farmington Canal is navigable from this city to the feeder at Eight Mile River in Southington above Barris Mills. Three boats have passed up this week with lumber for the Presbyterian church building in Southington, and with various articles of merchandise. One boat has returned laden with wood and country produce. Contractors have engaged to effect a complete repair in one month to the damage done to the Canal at Farmington by the late freshet. As several days of the contract have already expired, confident hopes are entertained that water will be let into the Canal again, and boats pass up to Farmington by the latter part of October.

A printed notice was issued by the directors of the Canal Company that

The water in all the levels above Hillhouse Basin be left at the height of the upper side of the arm of the great gate, next above the paddle gate at the bottom of the lock, and the lock tenders be instructed to govern their levels accordingly, and not suffer the water in the Canal to rise above that line. That the Collectors be instructed to inform the captains of the boats navigating the Canal, that in no event will a greater depth of water than that above specified, be let onto the Canal.

Attest, Wm. Boardman, Sec'y.

On Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1828, an excursion embarked on the canal from Hillhouse basin in the Hillhouse woods (between Whitney Avenue and Temple Street in New Haven) to the Red Tavern, three miles out in Hamden Plains, where Justus Cooper had been since before 1797. The fare for adults was 37½c., and 12½c. for children. "Plenty of fun" was promised in the advertisements.

The so-called Cheshire summit level was near enough completion to be navigable, and in a grand celebration the present West Cheshire was christened "Beachport," with a bottle of pink liquid dropped into the water from the chimney top of Richard Beach's store on the canal bank. Three boats and a cannon were provided and at three o'clock, upon the firing of the signal gun, a red flannel petticoat was hoisted as a flag aboard the *Fayette*, and the boat started from the north end of Section 63. As it passed the summit, three cheers were given and a Federal salute of twenty-four guns was fired. The ceremony was closed by the serving of plentiful refreshments to all the local men who had worked on the canal. The red petticoat was an unexplained mystery, except that Cheshire ladies were reported indignant about it.

In June, when water was let into the level below Cheshire, so much of it was absorbed by the sandy soil of Hamden Plains that Captain George Rowland and a volunteer group of "young gentlemen" from New Haven puddled the area with clay to stop the leakage.

Of the activities at Farmington attendant upon the launching of their first boat, Deacon Hooker's diary said:

Farmington, Friday, June 20, 1828. Very fine weather. A multitude of people collected this afternoon to witness the launching and sailing of the first Canal boat that has been seen at Farmington. Everything was conducted well. Bell-ringing, cannonfiring, and music from the Phoenix Band were accompaniments. About 200 ladies and gentlemen who were previously invited and furnished with tickets, sailed to and over the aqueduct and back again.

The boat was first drawn by four, and afterward by three large gray horses, handsomely decked, and ridden by as many black boys dressed in white. Crack-

ers, cheese and lemonade, wine, etc., were furnished to the guests, and the musicians performed very finely on the passage. The boat was named *James Hillhouse* with three cheers while passing the aqueduct.

Long after the *James Hillhouse* had ceased to ply its colorful way between Connecticut ports, it was thus described by one who had known it well:

Of all the boats that ever battled with the raging tide of the old Canal, not one had so wide and famous a reputation for passenger comforts and prompt movements as the staunch old *James Hillhouse* and her genial captain. Not one had so nicely fitted up cabins as the gentlemen's cabin aft and the ladies' cabin forward as she had, and not one captain on the surging seas of the Canal had such a ringing, convincing voice when he shouted, "Bridge! Bridge!" as Captain Dickenson; and above all things else, not one of them set so good a table; and yet some of those old canalers could make savory dishes out of Cape Cod turkey and eloquent beans and juicy pork. Long live the memory of the old *James Hillhouse* and her jolly Captain Dickenson! [From Julius Gay.]

When the feeder dam near Unionville was finished, a celebration marked the moment of letting water into the feeder. There were speeches, flags, rum, and sandwiches. When the speakers had exhausted their oratory and the people had cheered until they were tired, the gun boomed the signal for knocking away the restraining water gate, and the first water flowed from there into the canal.

The first excursion boat was the *New England*, plying between New Haven and Southington, fare 50c. This boat, launched on April 5, 1828, was considered one of the best boats of the day. Its berths swung on

hinges so that they could be raised out of the way in the daytime. It was built by Captain George Rowland who had been so conspicuous in the ceremonies at Granby, and during its construction someone predicted that the vessel would be too large for the canal locks. The captain was highly indignant, saying that the locks were 74 feet from bumping post to recess gates and 12 feet wide, so that obviously there was ample room for the craft, which measured 74 feet in length and in width 11 feet and 4½ inches! The fact that the boat was used seems to prove that the captain was right!

Plans for a July Fourth trip by the *New England* and the *DeWitt Clinton* from New Haven to Farmington were spoiled by a break at Southington. Again in September, a freshet caused much general damage, and for the second time the great Salmon Brook arch bridge at Granby was carried away. But after these discouraging events came happier ones. In October, the toll gates were set up; the *Weatogue* made an excursion from the town of that name to Farmington, and the *American Eagle* went from Farmington to Simsbury. In November the *James Hillhouse*, with a few passengers, made a voyage from Farmington to New Haven. Two days later the *Enterprise*, built at Ithaca, New York, arrived at noon at Farmington, loaded with sixty thousand shingles from Seneca Lake; a half-hour later, a one-hour stop was made there by the *Weatogue*, a handsome packet drawn by three horses and loaded with pleasure seekers traveling from Simsbury to New Haven. The excursionists inspired the Farmington Band to accompany them a few miles out, rendering spirited music for their entertainment. At four o'clock on the very same day, the splendid *New England* docked from

New Haven with passengers and one hundred barrels of salt, along with the returning Farmington Band picked up en route and still playing vigorously. The village bell could not be rung in welcome, having broken its tongue with its loud acclaim of the arrival of other boats. Some muskets were fired instead. Between nine and ten o'clock that evening, the *James Hillhouse*, bravely sounding her bugle, returned from her trip to New Haven, safe and sound.

A golden glow of satisfaction that the canal was an apparent tangible success colored the minds of all who were interested in it, although the chief accomplishments thus far had been oratory and cheers and short excursions with free music and entertainment. Passenger travel was not as great as had been expected, but enough exchange of farm products, including wood and cider brandy going down to New Haven, in return for sugar, salt, molasses, flour, and coffee coming back to the inland towns, had been effected to encourage the belief that a rosy and prosperous future loomed ahead.

A canal boat carried Southington people to town meetings; and before there was a church in Plainville, churchgoers came up to Farmington by this means, often spending the time on the journey in psalm singing, while the children, perhaps without the notice of their parents, fished for shiners from the stern. Shipments of copper ore were made by way of the canal from the Granby mine to New Haven. This mine held one of the most ancient charters granted by the colonies; it bore the date 1709.

Newspaper advertisements carried such headings as, "Canal Navigation. Port of Farmington." Real estate was listed for sale, with nearness to the canal as one of the assets. A hotel, later used for a part of Miss Por-

ter's School, was built in Farmington, and it was lauded as a fine hostelry for the accommodation of the many travelers expected on the canal.

Cheshire was consistently friendly to the canal throughout its existence. Richard Beach's warehouse projected out over it, so that boats could load and unload their cargoes within the building. Beachport was as busy as any other port along the way in the flourishing days, for until the building of the Naugatuck Railroad, all of the Naugatuck Valley products were brought over the hills to Beachport for shipment. *The DeWitt Clinton* once advertised a Fourth of July excursion from the New Haven market "for Beachport on Saturday morning at six o'clock, and return at sunset. Passage to and from, 50 cents. Passengers to find themselves, except with cold water; that can be had at the Bar." In other words, they brought along their own liquid refreshments.

The waters of the canal could be used by the public for small boats, rafts, or log-floating, with payment for the privilege at the toll-houses along the banks. But the towpaths could not be used, except by animals towing the canal boats.

Anxieties of the canal's promoters rose at this point. There were many breaks and overflows along the banks, and sometimes the banks were deliberately cut, with consequent great expense. The loss of Simeon Baldwin's guidance, after his resignation as chairman of the Canal Commission, was keenly felt. Equally unpleasant was the news of the completion of a canal on the Connecticut River at Windsor Locks, bypassing the dangerous Enfield Falls, and making river traffic to northern ports a definite challenge to the canal's business.

Early in 1829 the city of New Haven subscribed for another \$100,000 of stock (par value \$100), the unhappy chief result being an increase in city taxes of 70 mills on the dollar. Not even that sum could relieve the Canal Company's embarrassment, so James Hillhouse made an appeal to the Federal Government for a grant, pleading the canal's benefits to the nation; but Congress turned a deaf ear, perhaps having already listened to the Riverites' opinion.

James Hillhouse was the man above all others to lead in the canal project. He had spent his life in public service. In his youth he led the Governor's Foot Guard in the defense of New Haven during the British invasion of July, 1779. Later he served in the Connecticut General Assembly, the House of Representatives in Washington, and the United States Senate, besides acting for fifty years as Treasurer of Yale College. He resigned from the Senate to devote fifteen years of hard work to saving the Connecticut School Fund from bankruptcy. Dr. Leonard Bacon's sermon at Mr. Hillhouse's death in 1832 shows the sentiment of that day about the canal:

He resigned his office as Commissioner of School Funds in 1825, as his fellow-citizens were urgently calling him in his old age to the conduct of a new and still more arduous enterprise. A great work of internal improvement, opening a new channel for commerce, was to be constructed by the contributions of individuals, voluntarily associating for the purpose; and to none but him could they look to be the leader of the work. At the age of three-score years and ten, he embarked in the construction of the Farmington and Hampshire Canal with all the enthusiasm and hardy vigor of his prime, and for six years he sustained the charge through every disappointment and difficulty. That work will be hereafter accomplished. The

men are now living who will live to see it a great and busy thoroughfare. Then the last great labor of him who, for more than half a century was the unwearied servant of his fellowcitizens, will be acknowledged with gratitude.

Another tribute to Mr. Hillhouse was in these words:

It was by his indomitable determination that an undertaking perhaps too great to be carried on by a single city of no greater population than New Haven, was prosecuted, through almost unparalleled obstacles and difficulties, to a result which, if not perfectly successful, was of great importance.

There were still unflagging hopes for the canal's success, only slightly marred by the appearance of a pamphlet signed "A Stockholder" setting forth the argument that the construction of canals was the proper task of "the sovereign power, and should never be committed to private corporations." It said that the Company's charter was radically wrong, that it granted to the Company powers which it could not exercise without violating the first principles of the government. The pamphlet claimed that while great benefits had been anticipated for all parties concerned, in reality most of the persons whose lands had been taken had suffered severely without prospect of relief, and stockholders and contractors too had suffered losses. The pamphlet charged that the only ones who had profited were the draughtsmen of the charter, the professional advocates of its adoption, the commissioners, the lawyers, the courts, the appraisers, the engineers, and the numerous board of directors!

The Hampshire and Hampden Company had stopped all work on the canal in 1831 for lack of funds.

The City Bank of New Haven was organized, conveniently at this time, and subscribed for \$100,000 in canal stock. The New Haven County Bank paid for its charter with an immediate subscription of \$2,000, and another \$1,000 annually for three years. The city of New Haven guaranteed \$100,000, taking a mortgage on the canal. Bonds amounting to \$20,000 were issued, but then New Haven repudiated its agreement. Simeon Baldwin effected the adjustment in 1840, in which New Haven canceled the \$20,000 indebtedness, releasing the mortgage, and agreeing to pay \$3,000 a year for thirty years. The city often found the canal water convenient for fire-fighting purposes.

In 1831, the following agreement of interest to Hamden, for Russell Leek was a typical and active citizen, was signed:

It is hereby agreed by and between the president, directors and company of the Farmington Canal and Russell Leek of Hamden. That the said Leek shall take the charge of Lock No. 19, of said Canal situated in the Town of Hamden for the term of twelve months from and after the first day of April 1831, and that during said term he shall faithfully perform all the duties and services of a tender of said Lock, according to such orders and instructions as shall from time to time be given him. It shall be his duty to watch said Lock and the Canal for the distance of one mile above and half a mile below said Lock by night and by day, and to prevent all damage or injury to them, as far as his best watchfulness, care and efforts can do it.

The Company leased to Russell Leek their dwelling house standing near Lock 19, and agreed to pay him \$8.50 a month during navigation on said Canal.

Signed Hervey Sanford
for the Company.

The eighteenth lock was known as the Goodyear lock, on Jesse Goodyear's property in Centerville.

In 1833 and 1834 the canal carried heavy traffic as far as Westfield, Massachusetts. There had been delay and heavy expense in rebuilding the Salmon Brook arch, and a bad drought in 1832. But the spirits of the promoters were still hopeful.

Mayor Henry Peck of New Haven, said, in speaking of the busy years,

Very pleasant in the summer nights sounded the music of the boatman's horn as it was heard on the long level above the Hillhouse Ave. bridge; and one musical fellow summoned the lock-keeper by a melodious tune played on a brass instrument with keys. Sometimes there would pass through the Canal a boat on which the Canal men were singing.

The long-expected opening of the canal at its full length to the Connecticut River at Northampton was finally celebrated on July 29, 1835. The New Haven delegation stopped overnight at Westfield, where their arrival was greeted with peals of artillery, ringing of bells, and cheers of the citizens. Following a triumphant procession to the coffee-house of Mr. Parsons, addresses of welcome were delivered. The next morning they started for Northampton, accompanied by gentlemen from Westfield. The *Westfield Democratic Herald* said in part:

It was expected the boat would reach Northampton at 10 A.M., but some mean, low-spirited puppy, having nothing of manhood about him except intelligence enough to guide his malice, had let off the water from a half-mile level. This obstacle being overcome by waiting the arrival of the water, the boat with its cabin filled and its decks covered with passengers, and

drawn by five horses, passed through Easthampton, was met by a boat at the south basin in Northampton, when an address was made by Mr. Bancroft.

“Mr. Bancroft” was none other than the famous historian George Bancroft, then but thirty-five years old, and the first volume of his *History of the United States* had appeared only the year before. The boat did not pass into the river until the following day, when a large crowd of people, escorted by the military, sat down to a fine “collation” (or banquet) at which many toasts were offered. The editor of the *Northampton Gazette*, who was a rabid prohibitionist, was so incensed at the drinking that he refused to print anything about the exercises. Then the *Northampton* passed through the locks into the river.

At last the boat which had left Hillhouse Basin on Monday floated on the bosom of the Connecticut. The scene was one of joy and gladness. . . . A salute was fired, the air echoed with cheering, the band played its liveliest tunes in its happiest manner; the waters of the Sound were poured into our river; the union between New Haven Harbor and the upper Connecticut was declared to be perpetual. May it be productive of the happiest results!

In spite of the growing volume of traffic on the now completed canal, financial difficulties were many, and very shortly after the opening both companies went into bankruptcy. However, after some negotiation, the Honorable Nathan Smith of New Haven effected an adjustment, and a new corporation, the New Haven and Northampton Company, was chartered in 1836. Creditors of the old company got something, while the stockholders sustained the total loss of their investment. The

loss occasioned by this new arrangement was about \$1,000,000.

The banner years for the canal were 1836-38, and the communities along the way prospered, but not the Company, for the damages sustained from freshets were very heavy.

Old bills of Russell Leek's show that he was paid in 1836 by the Canal Company for:

six days work with team	15.00
shooling [shoveling]	.50
blacksmith work	.50
stick of timber	.50
five and a half days work scraping	13.75
whitch is in full demand to date June 25, 1836.	

While Mr. Leek was employed in the early days of building the canal in 1826, he had paid a bill to Hull & Smith Company for:

mending a chane
repairing a scraper
setting cart tire
sharpening a share
shoeing a ox
sharpening a pick.

The first boats in use on the canal were designed for carrying freight and were of not more than twenty-five tons; but by 1838 a gay line of packet boats sailed daily from New Haven to Northampton. Among these were the *Gold Hunter* and the *Paragon*. The *Sachem* was named for James Hillhouse; he bore that affectionate title because of his Indianlike features. The trip over the whole length of the Canal required twenty-four hours and cost \$3.75, with meals. The boats were gaily painted and invariably were drawn by big gray horses,

ridden by boys dressed in white. Some of the boats had knifelike projections mounted on the bow, with which they cut the towline of any slow-moving craft which they wished to pass. A newspaper account discriminated sharply between the comforts of "the passenger boats, which are elegantly furnished, and meals are served up on board by the owners," and "the line boats, . . . only used for the transportation of freights, and passengers who find themselves." Even in the boom years there were never more than sixteen or seventeen boats on the canal in a single day.

In 1836, Captain George Rowland built a grist mill on the canal, near Wooster Street, New Haven, contracting with the Canal Company for his water power. There was great disappointment over the failure of other manufacturers to do the same. But the canal's financial future was too uncertain and the supply of water, through continual breaks along the canal's banks, not to be depended upon.

In 1841 there was continuous operation of business, in which thousands of tons of goods were carried. At the New Haven end, a special harbor, the Canal Basin, was constructed. Here ships from all parts of the world lay at anchor at Long Wharf, while exchanging cargoes with the canal boats.

The romantic story of Long Wharf, which extended 3,480 feet into the harbor, begins in 1644 when New Haven colonists began to talk of digging a channel because the harbor was too shallow for any kind of shipping business. This was the place where Captain Kidd was purported to have buried his treasure, and the very spot where the British invaders in 1779 fired upon New Haven. The project of making the harbor more convenient for shipping was by 1800 concentrated upon

building the wharf rather than deepening the channel. Everybody gave to help it along, and into it went stone from Gibraltar and Malta, and Dublin, and nearly all the West Indies islands. When vessels arrived from the West Indies, the boys flocked to the wharf for free oranges, coconuts, and samplings of sugar and molasses were to be had. Long Wharf was in its prime in the canal days, having taken almost two centuries to complete, and becoming the longest wharf in the country, and possibly in the world.

The canal was open for eight months in 1842, but the next year a major catastrophe, a flood, wiped out all of the fall business and cost the company \$20,000 for repairs. Not one day was lost in the wonderfully busy year of 1844, but 1845 brought a serious drought from July to September, and another bad break in the bank cost \$7,000 and created a long delay to traffic.

The Company struggled valiantly through all these years, but although it was earning more than normal expenses, the accumulating disasters and mounting costs, coming sometimes at the hands of angry farmers who cut the canal banks in retaliation for damages to their land occasioned by overflows, coupled with the fact that railroads were obviously going to be a serious competitor, led Henry Farnam and Joseph Sheffield to take the bull by the horns and decide to operate a railroad themselves over the same route, keeping the canal open for the freight business; and in 1846 the Company obtained an amendment to its charter permitting it to do this.

The railroad, built largely on the towpath, was opened as far as Plainville in January, 1848. It appeared at once, however, that practically all of the business, both passenger and freight, was going to use the

new means of transportation, and so the canal officially ceased operation. But for some time thereafter much of it was kept filled for such owners of canal boats as were willing to take the responsibility of using it. One writer has quite falsely said that the canal cut deeper into the prosperity of New Haven than into its soil; the fact being that the city profited enormously from the channel of business opened by the canal, business which never ceased to flow to it thereafter.

Hamden continued to use the canal; there was a manufacturing concern on each of the locks in Mount Carmel, and these concerns secured quit-claim deeds to all the Canal Company's rights in the premises. But in time near-by property owners objected to having the canal run through their land, and their complaints were so many that the factories were moved to sites on Mill River, where other enterprises soon were encouraged to begin.

Although the local farmers hated the canal for the damages it caused them and the difficulty of crossing over the high bridges with their loads of hay, children found it a wonderful place for their sports, swimming and boating and fishing in summer, skating in the winter. Boys could drop from a bridge to a boat deck and ride as far as they wished. Children in the school at Hamden Plains, nicknamed the Lighthouse, often enjoyed rides on the boats to and from school. The school stood close by the canal, a short distance north of the present location of the Whitney Blake factory.

Certain religious societies in New Haven used the canal for baptism, and on a Sunday afternoon large assemblies for that purpose could be seen just above where the water ran under the Grove Street bridge. George

Munson of Mount Carmel owns a document in which his family were granted permission to water cattle at the canal, provided care was taken not to injure the banks.

The total cost of the Farmington Canal has been estimated at \$1,478,425. From this amount should be subtracted the value to the railroad of lessened damages for land, grading costs, and the expense of hauling materials for railroad construction floated on the canal. Historians have contended that the undertaking was unfortunate and without benefit. It did business for twenty years, some of it extensive, and it doubtless would have been a profitable undertaking had it not been for unprecedented floods and droughts and much malicious damage.

There has been much ignorant criticism of the project, largely due to the two facts: that the financial failures of the two pioneer companies have been "misremembered" as applying to the entire project; and that the change-over to a railroad has been generally considered a deathblow from a competitor—when actually it was the wise recognition by the directors of the fact that the railroad was the coming method of transportation.

A rhyme commonly quoted at the time of the canal's closing was:

The only dividend known to pay,
They mowed the towpath and sold the hay.

The stockholders who mowed the hay may have been inspired by the same Yankee thrift which moved the early New Haveners to tightly fence in New Haven Green, with gates locked till haying time was over so that the hay might be cut and used.

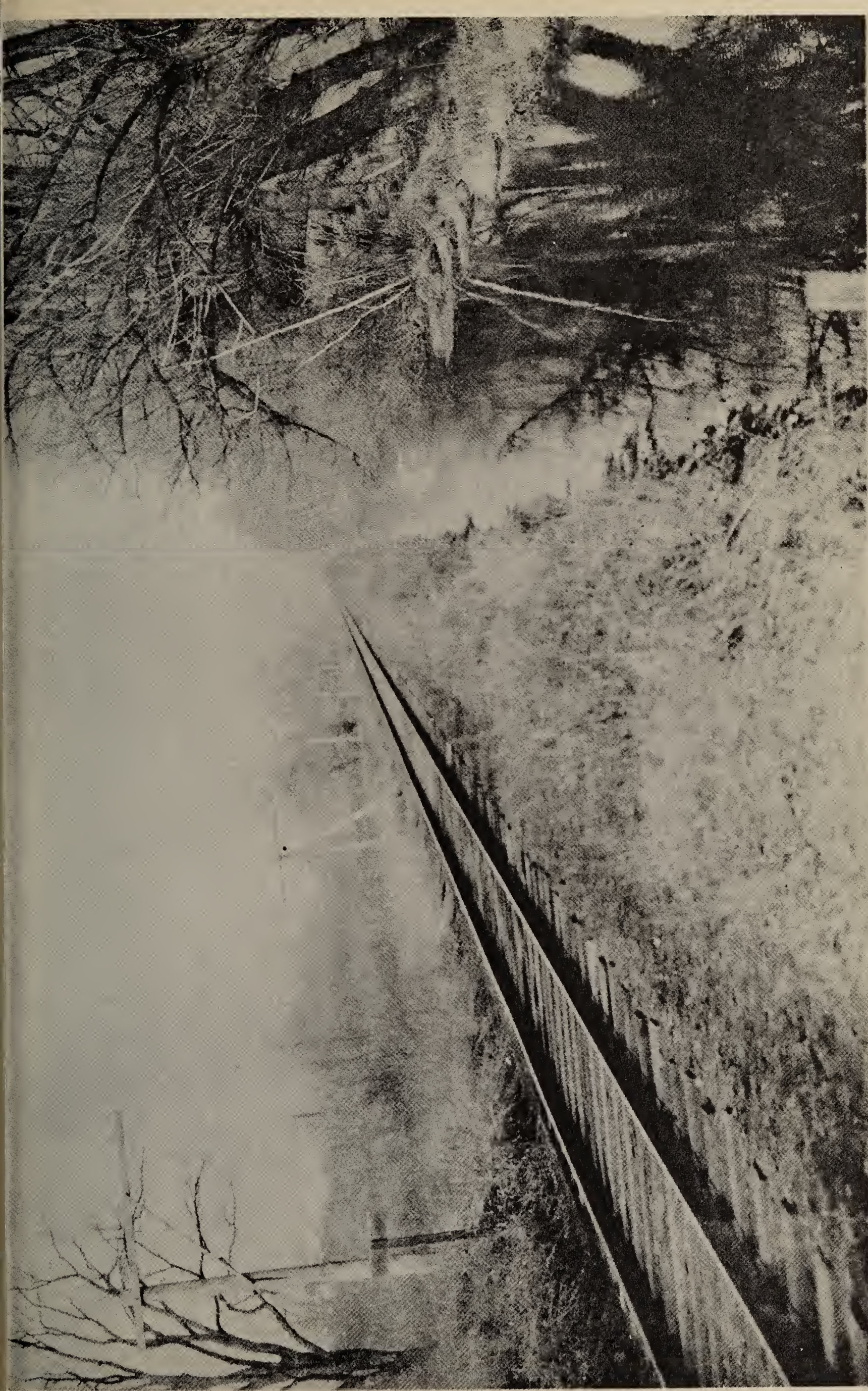
Another verse speaks of happier memories of the old canal:

To and fro the boats are sailing by
Along the waters of the old Canal;
We hear the creaking ropes, the boatman's cry,
And the tread of horses on the hard towpath.

CANAL MANUFACTORIES

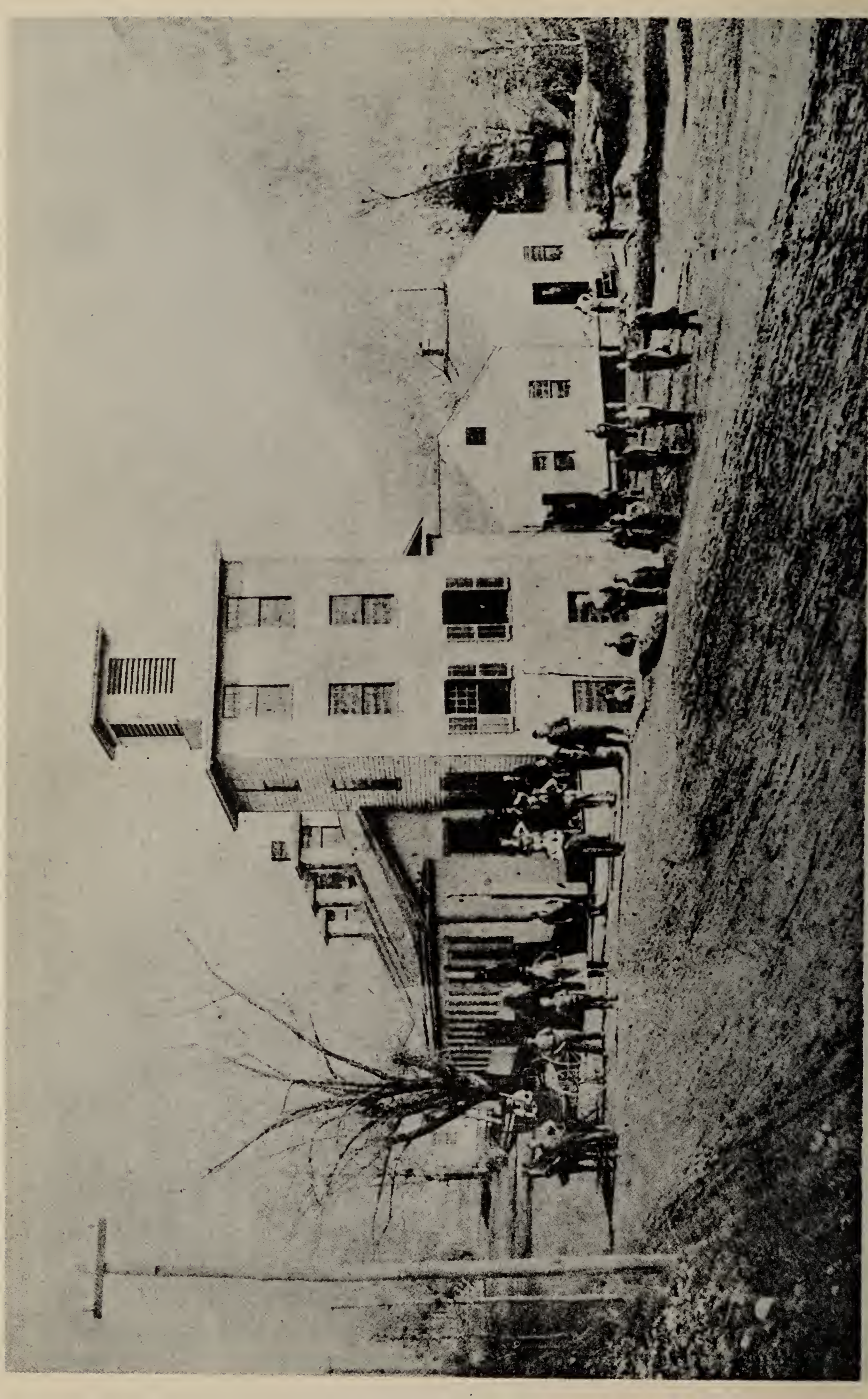
One of the canal locks in Mount Carmel was at the farm of Elam Ives, which was cut in two by the waterway. Mr. Ives had worked in the construction of several sections of the canal, and he had invested in the Company. He conceived the idea of setting up a factory which could be run by water from the canal. The water was directed around the lock to a building on the west side of the Cheshire Turnpike, on property which is now owned by Dr. G. H. Joslin. Parsons and Jason Ives, who drove on the freight line in the War of 1812, began the manufacture of iron carriage axles here in 1833. Axles were for the first time made by machinery. The use of iron for the whole axle was an innovation. Hitherto wagons and carriages had been equipped with wooden axles, the arm being inlaid with an iron skein with a shoulder on the back and a nut or linchpin on the front end to keep the wheel in place, the hubs being lined with cast-iron boxes set in each end.

A New Britain man, Norman Warner, had been very well known as the manufacturer of wagons for peddlers to the South, on which wooden axles were used, and the Mount Carmel Axle Works had to compete actively with his popular product. The peddler business was begun in 1740 by Edward Pattison, the tinner of Berlin, who employed many more men in the distribution



Canal and Railroad Near Brooksville

Photo by Charles R. Harte



Upper Axle Works

Gift of Arnold G. Dana

of his products than in their manufacture. His tin articles were made in small shops, then loaded into wagons for distant markets. President Timothy Dwight said:

Every inhabited part of the United States is visited by these men. I have seen them on the peninsula of Cape Cod and in the neighborhood of Lake Erie, distant from each other more than six hundred miles. . . . They are in Detroit, Canada, Kentucky. . . .

A salesman once wrote back to headquarters, "I have traversed the country from Dan to Beersheba, besides going to Albany." The trade was perhaps more regularly directed to the South, with terminus in Richmond, Charleston, or Savannah. The reason that Northern manufacturers found their readiest market in the South was that after Eli Whitney's cotton gin was put into use there, the enormously expanded business of growing cotton absorbed the time and effort of the Southerners, who yet had money to spend for Northern goods. So it was that Hamden's first notable manufacturer was directly responsible for much of the business opportunity given to the next after him.

The nearness of New Haven, at that time the foremost city in the country in the manufacture of carriages, was favorable to the manufacture of axles and also of carriage hardware. The youngest of Elam Ives's thirteen children, James, began the manufacture of carriage hardware from brass, in the same building with his brothers. Willis Churchill had been there a short time before him, manufacturing brass surgical instruments. James was a skilled mechanic, and he found a ready market for his made-in-America products, since before his time only imported goods were procurable.

James Ives was only twenty when in 1835 he took the sole responsibility of making brass hardware for

harness and carriages, having learned from Mr. Churchill how to handle the metal. The first brass castings that he used were made by William H. Smith of New Britain and shipped on the canal from Plainville to Mount Carmel. Soon a small brass foundry was set up here, and old copper was imported from the West Indies. One of Ives's apprentices, Lyman Todd, later became the founder of the Union Brass Company of Chicago, which at one time produced more than half of the railway car trimmings used in the United States. Mr. Ives also made brass hubcaps for public and private coaches, which effectively concealed from view the ends of the large axles then in use.

By 1842 the canal site was less desirable, due to the increase of complaints from property owners along the canal who objected to its passage through their farms. Mr. Ives moved his business to Mill River, only a short distance away, on what has become Ives Street and Broadway, into a building erected by Andrew Hall in 1835. It was a three-story wooden building on the west side of the river, and had been used by Edwin Buddington and Judah Frisbie for manufacturing carriage springs and steps. When their tools were sold in 1838 they were listed as:

1 engine lathe	8 vises
2 hand lathes	25 tons Lehigh coal
2 lever presses	12 grindstones
3 prs. hand bellows	250 lbs. of charcoal
7 anvils	and a blacksmith shop

At about the same time Parsons, Jason, and Henry Ives decided to move the Axle Works to the Kimberly mills on the Joel Munson site on the river at the head of the mountain.

When on the canal, the Axle Works and the brass factory had bought coal in the lump and broken it at the factory, but when they removed to the river they began to purchase coal by the cargo. It was delivered in New Haven at the newly completed Belle Dock, and Lucius Ives carted it to Mount Carmel for both firms for a dollar a net ton with a two-horse team. He carried two tons at a time and made two trips a day. One of his trips to New Haven would be with a load of the manufactured articles for shipment by steamboat. It was difficult travel for the road was not paved, either in New Haven or in Hamden.

At the second canal lock in Mount Carmel, Charles Brockett had utilized the canal waters for the manufacture of carriage springs, somewhat north of the Ives place on the Arba Dickerman farm; he, too, moved his business over to the river, above the Steps and the Munson dam. He conducted water from the canal through a large pipe under the highway to supply additional power for his factory.

Other manufacturing enterprises of this early period were the Marine Clock Company on the Eli Whitney property above the dam, and a workshop on Henry Peck's place for the making and repair of shoes. When Mr. Peck bought the place in 1826 it was a tannery. Ives Andrews learned the trade from him, and with his partner, Albert Hitchcock, turned out more than seven hundred pairs of shoes in a year. The boot and shoe industry was common among the small towns of Connecticut, families working together at it in the home. The Benham family of Hamden Plains were three generations of shoemakers. Isaac Benham, born in 1791, was taught by his father, who had been both a tanner and a shoemaker. Isaac's sons, William and

Jared, assisted him in their home on what is now Benham Street. Besides supplying the home market, they sent fifty pairs at a time to New Haven for shipment to a Southern market, where there was a particularly active demand for foot covering for the slaves.

Bricks were made on Wilmot's Brook in Hamden Plains about a mile north of the meetinghouse. Alfonzo Johnson's father began their manufacture before 1800, and he himself by 1821; and the house which stands at the corner of Circular Avenue and Gilbert Avenue was built of brick from their yards about 1860. Javin Woodin was connected with these yards. His account-book diary showed the following entry in 1803:

Fri. Carted load of brick to town with the old oxen and Mr. Booth's mare. . . . While I was absent from the brickyard, bought 3 iron shovels for the use of the brickyard at 6/6. Sat. Cloudy morning, all hands at brickyard in forenoon. Woodin and Miles worked at home in the afternoon plowing. Seymour went to town in the afternoon with the old oxen with a load of brick. Leverett went with my team, carried 550 brick.

No trace remains of their location, the pits having long been covered with tall meadow grass.

On the eastern border of the town, the brick industry has been continuous from John Benham's discovery of good clay there in 1641. By 1836 the yards, which were partly in North Haven, were making 4,500,000 bricks a year.

PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON IN HAMDEN

In June, 1833, President Andrew Jackson arrived in New Haven on his trip through New England. He arrived at noon on the steamboat *Splendid*, greeted by

the boom of guns from a United States cutter in New Haven Harbor, a signal to a fieldpiece on the landing and a cannon on the Green to echo the news that the President of the United States was a visitor among them. Crowds lined the streets to see him on a handsome white horse. He doffed his hat in acknowledgment of their cheers, and his thick white hair was strikingly noticeable. He was addressed in the State House by the governor and the mayor, attended services in Trinity Church, and visited two industrial plants in New Haven. A reporter for the *Albany Journal* said afterward that the behavior of Vice-President Martin Van Buren in the church was so indecorous that he ought to have been disciplined by the tythingman, but this was indignantly denied by many who had attended the services. Some greatly admired General Jackson, and one Timothy Potter of Hamden is said to have run around the State House three times attempting to shake his hand; but others openly showed their dislike, and Samuel Miles, a tailor, spent the day in West Haven so that he would not have to see him.

On the following day President Jackson left for Hartford, coming first to Hamden to visit Eli Whitney's armory, perhaps the most distinguished of all those who came to see it.

THE SHOWER OF METEORS

On November 12-13 of 1833 occurred an unusual display of so-called falling stars, in reality meteors, bits of stone or metal projected from outside into the solar system. At certain times of the year the earth runs into swarms of them, creating what looks like showers of lovely stars, some of them having brilliant

tails of varied colors. The ones of 1833 were called Leonids, after the star group from which they appeared to scatter out.* The astral display was a morning's marvel to the early-rising householders of that day, of whom Mrs. Elias Warner was one, and inspired the Sabbath text of a local pastor: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork."

MOUNT CARMEL AND EAST PLAINS CHURCH PROGRESS

By 1830 the Mount Carmel congregation decided to purchase their first stove. Its introduction may have been related to the beginning of Sabbath School classes for children. A new church building was erected in 1840, two hundred feet south of the old one. Free "slips," or pews, were set aside "for strangers and for colored persons." A fine of one dollar was to be levied upon anyone defacing the building. It was voted that "all persons are requested not to smoke or spit Tobacco juice except in a Spit Box in said House." One of the duties of the church deacons was to provide a hot toddy for the minister after the sermon; and one can only wonder what enlivening interest might have been added to some of the discourses had this refreshment come before instead of after them! The old accepted custom of using liquor in church activities was still prevalent; but in 1842 the New Haven West Association (delegates from Congregational churches) voted "that in all future meetings of this Association ardent spirits form no part of the entertainment." On the treasurer's books are three other items no longer part of the church's needs:

* One account says there were 240,000 in nine hours.

Cash for wood, and candles for singing, Ecclesiastical Society of Mt. Carmel to Hobart Ives, Dr. For Repairs on Bass Viol and strings for two years,	\$1.10 1.50
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Yearly amounts of from \$10 to \$80 were voted for the instruction of singers, from as far back as 1797.

In the church in the East Plains, after the dismissal of Reverend Abraham Alling, there was great discouragement. Many withdrew their membership because of bitter feelings connected with his leaving, the church building was in great disrepair, and often the small congregation had no preacher. This condition continued for sixteen years, the deacons filling the pulpit in the absence of visiting ministers. Among them was Lyman Ford who, though he never attended school "possessed a very superior mind, great knowledge of the Bible, and remarkable gifts for the utterance of divine truth." These stalwart members were determined, resourceful, self-reliant—and religious services they would have, even though forced to draw upon their own numbers to provide them.

Largely through the efforts of Reverend George Delevan who supplied the pulpit in 1833, plans were developed for the erection of a new meetinghouse. Although many wished to remain on the west side of Hamden, the east side was chosen, due in part to the gift from Eli Whitney, 2d, of land from his father's estate. It was near the paper mill on the Cheshire Road, which at that time ran closer to Mill River and east of the present church. The building was erected through subscriptions solicited by members in 1834 at a cost of \$2,740.54. And so the church made a pilgrimage of a mile to rest its ark on the river bank, thenceforth to be known as the Whitneyville Church,

in honor of Eli Whitney. When the cornerstone was laid, Governor Henry Edwards and his wife were present, and Reverend Leonard Bacon delivered an address. The building was finished in August, and between Sunday services it was possible for people to eat their lunches and rest under the trees or in the horsesheds, but soon cooler weather led them to the need of a Sabbath-day house, and William Shares and others petitioned the Mill school district committee for permission to set such a building on the adjoining schoolhouse lot. A comfortable building, painted red like the school, was placed near the church, facing east and the door opening toward the turnpike.

In the short time that Reverend Mr. Delevan served the church, a modest library was started, which circulated a small number of books among the members.

The turning point in the church's history was the installation in July, 1838, of Reverend Austin Putnam as its pastor. He had been thoroughly educated for the legal profession, and was a member of the New York bar. Soon after he began the practice of law, he was led through his interest in philosophy to make a careful study of the Bible, with the result that he felt himself called to the Christian ministry. He and his wife came from upper New York State to Whitneyville in a horse and buggy, to begin there his record pastorate of nearly fifty years.

HAMDEN CEMETERIES

There are nine sacred squares in Hamden, set aside in years long gone by as "God's acres." Graves of many are remembered and well tended; and many more are forgotten, for all to whom they were dear in life have long since joined them in death.

MOUNT CARMEL, 1751

The oldest gravestone in the town is that of the children of Jonathan and Rebecca Dickerman, Hezekiah and Joel, aged one and three years, a double red sandstone marker dated 1751. A stone beside it is dated a few months later for one-year-old Rebecca.

Most of the old stones are slabs of granite, slate, or red sandstone, decorated either with the face and wings or with the weeping willow and urn. Married women were designated as "relicts" or "consorts" of their husbands—adjuncts, not yet considered equals or for themselves recognizable. Nevertheless there were compensations, as many an epitaph bears witness.

Women of that day concentrated their attention upon home and church; they bore joint hardships with their husbands, taking their heavy share of the toil and privations endured in the earliest days of the settlement, instilling in their well-taught children those high standards of bravery and character which many an ultimately successful man remembered to have been taught him by his mother. Many of the stones erected to the memory of departed wives bore sentiments which testified how greatly they were loved. In the Mount Carmel Cemetery is the grave of Mrs. Kezia Munson, whose stone reads:

Mrs. Kezia Munson, the excellent wife of Bazil Munson. She was industrious, she looked well to the ways of her own household. The heart of her husband safely trusted in her. Her children may rise up and bless the memory of a most affectionate parent. She trusted the righteousness of Christ for pardon and eternal life.

On the slate stone of Samuel Bellamy, Sr., is written:

Here lies buried the body of Mr. Samuel Bellamy,
who departed this life the 8th day of May 1760, in
the 40th year of his age.

The sweet remembrance of the just
Shall flourish when they sleep in dust.

An early date, 1767, marks Joel, son of Jabez and
Esther Bradley, aged twelve years; and Jabez, who
died in 1793, was called

Patron of industry, a friend to Vertue, and a Pillar
to Society.

A double headstone bears mute testimony to Amos
and Mabel Alling's loss of their two children, Mabel
in 1771, aged fifteen days, and Amos in 1773, aged
twelve days.

This verse was chosen for the grave of Deacon Dan-
iel Bradley, who was a power in his time:

Adieu, paternal Shade,
Thy sufferings now are o'er,
Though here thy body mouldering lies,
The immortal part triumphant flies
On angel wings to mount the skies
To sing redeeming joy.

The epitaph of Amos Peck, who died in 1783, reads:

He adorned the religion he professed, and was zealous
in the cause of his Devine Master.

His wife Lois died in 1852 at the age of one hun-
dred. Mary Peck's stone bears this verse:

Look, youth, and view this solemn tomb,
Nor think this life a lasting home,
Improve your time and God adore,
You soon like me will be no more.

Nathaniel Tuttle died in 1786. His stone bears two sentiments:

He was a loving husband and a tender parent and a good member of Society.

Behold and see as you pass by,
As you are now, so once was I,
As I am now, so you must be,
Prepare for Death and follow me.

One wonders how some verses came to be chosen for a permanent association with the departed one, many are so impersonal and so lugubrious. Probably no Hamden graves bear sentiments penned by Lydia Sigourney, so ineptly called "the Sweet Singer of Hartford," but she wrote such quantities of pious verse and tombstone epitaphs that she was accused of having added a new terror to death.

Abigail Sperry's stone says:

The clods of the valley here
Cover the remains of the Just
Whose works shall follow her.

Mary Bradley, who died in 1808, seems to have been an invalid.

Afflictions sore long time I bore,
Physician's art was vain,
Till God did please to give me ease
And free me from my pain.
Ye living friends behold me past
Where death will bring you all at last.

Jonathan Dickerman, who died in 1821, and Isaac Dickerman, 1822, were among the founders of the Mount Carmel Parish. The lines on Jonathan's stone—

Praises on tombs are trifles vainly spent,
A man's good name is his best monument.

are indeed true of him and of many of his family, whose good name will live as long as the town is remembered.

This old burying ground, with spruce trees providing occasional shade, has directly behind it the head of the Sleeping Giant, who was the first sleeper, and who may be symbolized as a lasting and fitting monument to those who rest in his shadow. They were giants too—in courage, strength and wisdom, as they staunchly built their part of the foundation of the town.

THE CENTRAL BURYING GROUND, 1767

Originally the private cemetery of the Goodyear family, the burial ground at Centerville was called by the warranty deed of Miles Goodyear in 1896 the "Central Burying Ground."

The Pardees were probably the earliest family to build a home in Centerville, and it was one of them, Hannah, wife of Benjamin, who was the first to be buried in this cemetery, in 1767. Her husband's stone says (leaving the reader frustrated with curiosity),

He was crushed to death in an instant, Aug.
29, 1776, aged 60.

Thomas Pardee and his wife Lois, both aged seventy-seven, died in 1802. The inscription on the stone of Jason Bradley, who died in 1768, aged sixty, is disappointingly impersonal, and a public warning rather than an epitaph:

Kind Reader, Prepare for the important hour
of death.

Captain Samuel Atwater's wife Sarah, and Jacob Atwater's wife Miriam, lived respectively seventy-nine

and seventy-one years, but in all that time made no greater impression as individuals than to be designated on their gravestones as only the "consorts" of their husbands.

Timothy and Ruth Goodyear suffered a dreadful loss in 1773, as a triple sandstone slab testifies. Within the space of one month their three children died (aged eleven, nine, and four), victims of the awful scourge of smallpox in that year.

The cemetery is enclosed by a white picket fence. A habit of New Englanders is the building of picket fences around their dooryards, like embracing arms flung protectively about the homes they love. Here, in like manner, such a boundary mark shuts out the heedless world from the hallowed square which is the last earthly home of departed dear ones. Little evergreen trees stand here and there among the graves, straight, and stiffly at attention as though on sentinel guard.

HAMDEN PLAINS CEMETERY, 1787

The first cemetery on the west side of the town was laid out in the lowland east of Cherry Hill Road, which runs from Circular Avenue up to Benham Street, but after three or four burials there it was judged to be too wet for that purpose, and the present cemetery on Circular Avenue, surrounded by a high stone wall with tall pillars at the gateway, was opened in 1787. Residents of this part of town were previously buried on New Haven Green. A stone bearing the name of Joseph Dickerman, dated 1777, states that he is "inter'd in New Haven yard."

Matthew Gilbert, a direct descendant of Governor Matthew Gilbert, was buried here in 1795, under a

typical red sandstone marker, decorated with the crude picture of a face supported by wings. Thomas Leek was buried in 1791.

Reverend Abraham Alling's last resting place is marked by a stone table, the lettering of which is mostly obliterated other than the date of his death, 1837. Two names also associated with the early days of the churches here are Moses Ford of the East Plains Society, and Sybil Tuttle of the Methodist Church.

Of Chauncey Bassett, who died in 1874 at the age of forty-three, it is said that

His cheerful ways won many friends;

and of his wife, Betsy, in 1868, aged twenty-seven years:

She always made home happy, but was too fair
for this world and faded like a flower.

On the stone over Abner Sperry's wife is the inscription:

A heap of dust alone remains of thee,
'Tis all I am, and all the proud can be.

Of Ichabod Alling, aged fifty-two, was written in 1809:

Life and the grave
Two different lessons give;
Life shows how to die,
Death how to live.

The preponderant family names here are Benham, Warner, Woodin, Dorman, Dickerman, Gorham, and Gilbert. In a general view of the cemetery, one is impressed with the great number of fluttering flags, marking the graves of war veterans. In their bright vibrant animation, they seem almost to be signaling to us the

living, reminding us that these men still live, in the grateful memory of those who now enjoy what they died to save.

STATE STREET CEMETERY, 1799

The original burying ground of the State Street locality was a few rods north of the present one, and when the new plot was opened, apparently only the markers made the short journey; for when the cellar was dug for the wooden schoolhouse, many ancient bones were discovered there.

The oldest grave is that of Timothy Potter (whose son so admired Andrew Jackson). He "departed this life Oct. 24, 1799, in the sixty-ninth year of his age." The verse on his stone is:

Come My Companion, behold and see
The clods that doth cover me,
And on my right hand often view
The clods reserved to cover you.

This adjuration was faithfully complied with, for in 1838 his wife was buried at his right.

The unique feature of this burying ground is the fact that it is shared by Protestants and Catholics, a permanent testimonial to the religious tolerance of the community. It is a small area, enclosed by a low stone wall, and contains comparatively few graves. The one entrance drive, through an iron gate, runs straight down the center, bordered by large maples. Most of the stones are conventional granite slabs, with an occasional one of slate, and most of the dates are of the early 1800's. There are a few modern monuments, and several lots are enclosed by low fences.

Many Atwaters and Potters are buried here. The epitaph of Phoebe Potter creates the picture of a gracious personality, and is a reminder that many women played an incalculably important part in the life of the town, even though their scope was limited to domestic affairs.

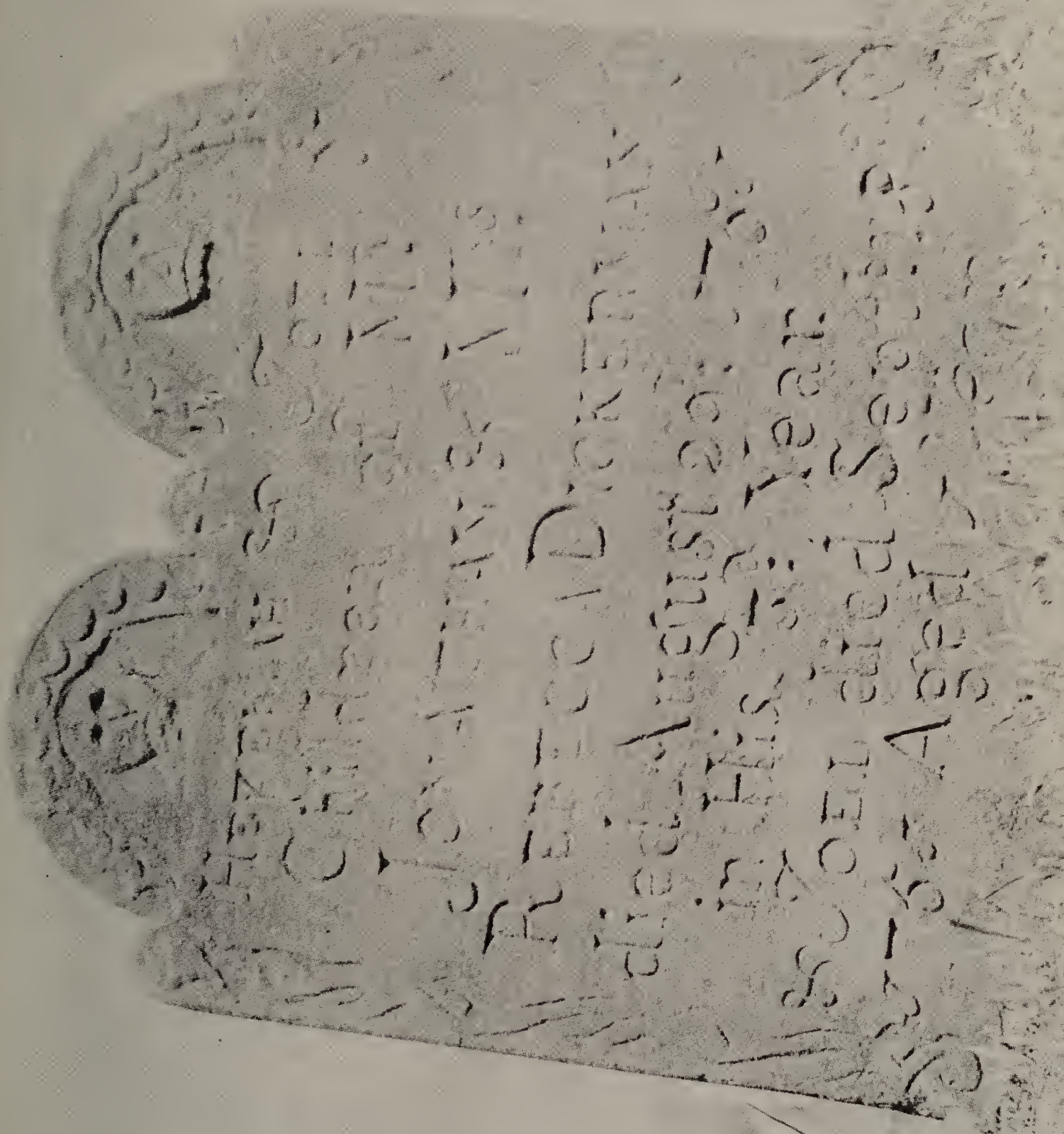
Mrs. Phoebe Potter died May 10, 1809, aged 69, consort of Philemon Potter. She was a kind companion, an affectionate mother, an obliging neighbor. She lived beloved and died lamented.

WEST WOODS CEMETERY, 1804

Near the Hamden-Bethany town line on Gaylord Mountain Road, standing close to the road but above it on a sharp steep rise, the West Woods Cemetery seems aloof from passersby, sunk in dim antiquity, undisturbed for many years by all but faithful Legionnaires who annually place flags on the graves of two veterans, one said to be a Warner, veteran of the Seminole War, 1818, and the other of the Civil War. The flutter of these fading banners is all that marks the presence of the soldiers—no headstone nor footstone, no rounded outlines even, to indicate the graves in which they sleep.

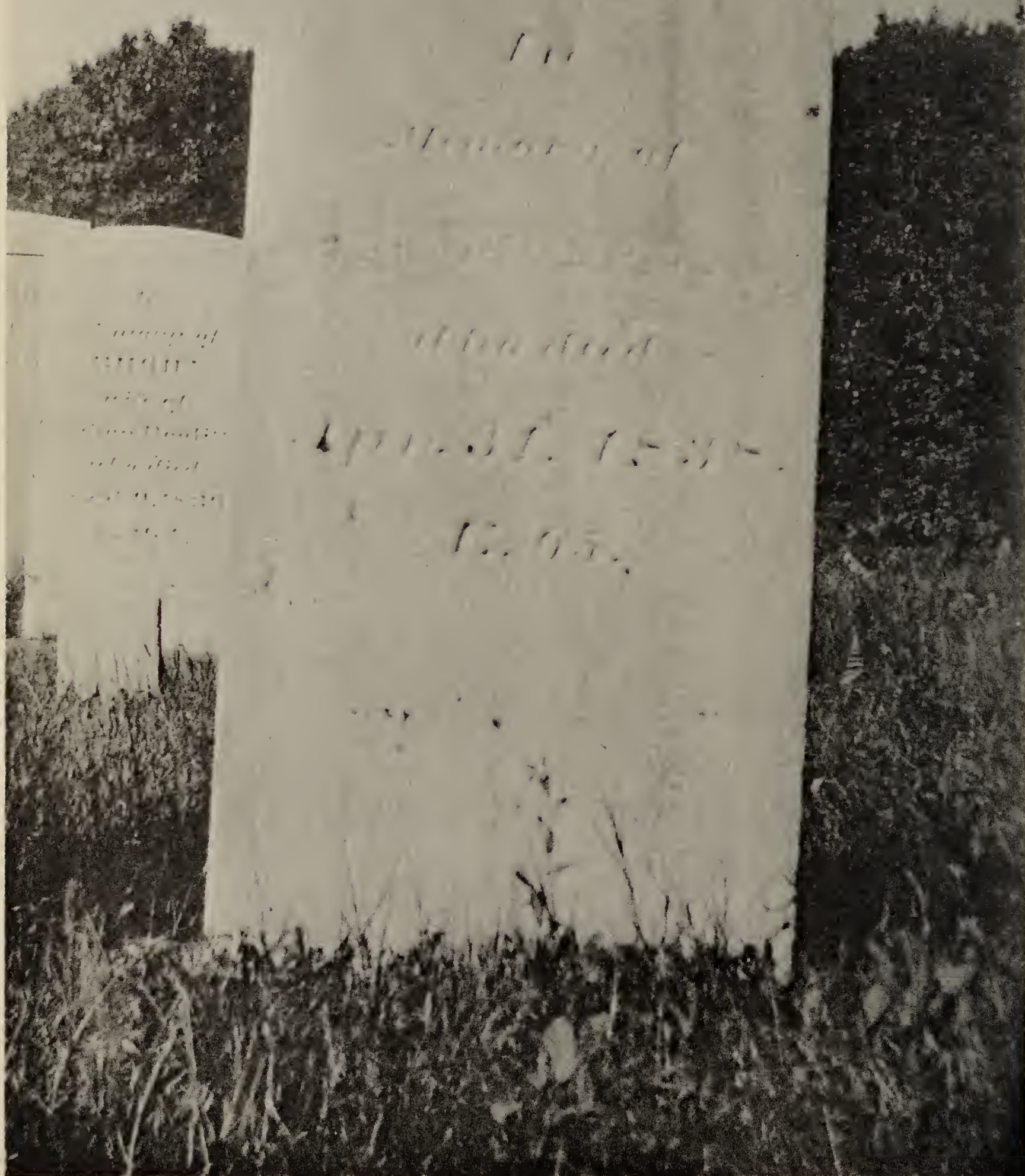
The property was originally owned by Alling Gaylord, and a deed filed in 1804 in the town records says:

Know ye that Alling Gaylord of Hamden, for the consideration of twelve dollars (\$12) received to my full satisfaction of Hezekiah Tuttle, Benjamin Gaylord & Simeon Warner, give, grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto the said Tuttle, Gaylord, & Warner & to all other persons living in that vicinity who wish to bury their dead friends or relations on the premises, hereby grant a certain piece for the only purpose of a burying place, containing one quarter of an acre, beginning at



Hamden's Oldest Gravestone, 1751

Photo by Carl J. Jensen



April 31 Gravestone in West Woods

a heap of stones on the brow of the hill & to extend north six rods, and west of each end so far as to make one quarter of an acre, and is bounded East, West & North on my own land, South on Highway.

The few gravestones in this cemetery bear the predominant names of Doolittle, Handy, and Warner, and the name of the donor, Gaylord, which was the source of the name for Gaylord Mountain. Although the dates upon the stones are not the oldest in the town, residents in the locality say that burials were made there before 1800. These old graves are not marked, and no record of them remains, so that there is room for speculation upon their age. Because of the isolation of this graveyard and of its having had no burials in recent years, there is a congruous air of quiet antiquity which suggests great age.

Two little headstones testify to the loss sustained by Gaylords, in 1803 and 1814, of two children, Milla and Delos, aged five and three years. The verse of one reads:

Sleep on, sweet babe, and take thy rest,
God called thee home because He saw it best.

The other seems cruelly unsuitable:

Soon ripe, soon rotten,
Soon gone, but not forgotten.

Other names on the pitted old stones are Tuttle, Hitchcock, and Phelps. Three of the conventional old slabs which had fallen and broken in half have been repaired. On the stone bearing Jesse Doolittle's name appears this epitaph:

My flesh shall slumber in the ground
Till the last trumpet's joyful sound,
Then burst the chains with sweet surprise,
And in my Saviour's image rise.

On his wife Betsy's stone appears this message:

The sweet remembrance of the Just
Shall flourish when they sleep in dust.

The name of one of the several Caleb Doolittles stands out for an unusual reason, not for the knowledge of him or his family or his deeds, but because the date of his death was irretrievably carved upon his gravestone as April 31, 1838. April surely had but its customary allotment of thirty days, even as far back as 1838, and one may wonder whether Caleb, the strong man of Dog Lane Court, was perhaps an exact and careful man who turned in his grave at the numerical error placed forever beneath his name, or whether, on the other hand, he was a simple soul who craved more attention, and now happily may bask for endless years in moderate notice.

This little cemetery, drowsing in the bright sunlight, covers only a treeless square the size of a small meadow; there are no high weeds, only sparse grass, low briars and blueberry bushes, clover and yarrow, and here and there among them little yellow or white wild flowers. One cannot stand here, pondering on the past and on those early townsmen who lie here, many of their graves undiscernible and their names forgotten, without the consciousness of dignity and tradition and the feeling that these courageous souls, even though no kin nor friends of ours, were yet our civic antecedents, who typify, in the strength and purpose with which they

helped to build our town, the civic ideals which we wish in our turn to perpetuate.

WHITNEYVILLE CEMETERY

When the Whitneyville Church was built on the east side of town in 1834, a cemetery was established beside it—square, enclosed within a white picket fence, treeless, and lying in the full sun as though forever looking with unobstructed view up into the blue of God's heaven. Members of this congregation in earlier years were buried in Hamden Plains Cemetery. On the Treadwell Street side, some of the old wooden hitching posts with their battered round tops are still standing where the horses of the funeral trains used to be tied.

Outstanding names on the tombstones there are those of Austin Putnam, for nearly fifty years pastor of the church; Dr. Charles Cutting, a later pastor; James J. Webb, who died in 1889, and his father Darius, who died in 1869; and Charles P. Augur, 1836-92, a first selectman of the town.

The most interesting monument is that of the Dickerman family, a tall brown shaft which commemorates their history:

Thomas Dickerman came from England 1635, died in Dorchester, Mass. in 1657. Abraham Dickerman died in New Haven in 1711 aged 77; Isaac Dickerman died in 1758, aged 81; Stephen Dickerman died in 1779 aged 58; Isaac Dickerman died in 1835 aged 75; Deacon Eli Dickerman died in 1869 aged 74; Elias Dickerman 1821-1905.

The last two of these took an important part in church affairs and in Hamden school matters.

In an old manual of the Whitneyville Church appears this paragraph:

The starred names upon this church manual exceed in numbers its members today—many have passed from this side of the street to the silent congregation over the way. More past members rest in hope there, than live in hope in the Church today. Great in numbers, rich in faith, bright in hope, they silently rest there waiting the coming of the Master.

MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC CEMETERY, 1860

The Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery lies on a steep green hillside within imposing sight of the Sleeping Giant. Lovely silver spruce trees and shapely arbor vitae appear among the gravestones, nearly all of which are decorated with a cross. One stone is a beautiful figure of a child, in memory of two little girls. The Hennessey mausoleum dominates the top of the hill. None of the stones are old. Many Catholics of the parish were buried in New Haven cemeteries.

THE TWO JEWISH CEMETERIES, 1855-1895

There are two tiny cemeteries in Highwood—one on Warner Street, maintained by Congregation B'nai Israel, containing graves, none of which are more than fifty years old; and the plot on Alling Street, established in 1855 by Congregation B'nai Scholom. The oldest stone bears the date 1857. Two war veterans lie here, one of the Civil War and one of World War I. An interesting and unusual stone is in memory of a twenty-one-year-old boy, and into the monument is inserted his glazed photograph.

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So, in these hallowed enclosures lie our ancestors and people of Hamden who have passed upon their westward way. One may stand within them on a bright summer day, aware of the deep silence, sometimes broken by the song-sparrow's "sweet-sweet-sweet," and think allegorically of the change in seasons, from cold and drifted winter snows to quickening spring and flowers and green things blooming again, of solemn night and breaking morn, light from darkness, life from death—and breathe a prayer that mourners coming here with weeping will find within their darkened hearts peace and hope that cannot die.

The words of Dr. Leonard Bacon's famous hymn, written of the earliest settlers of New Haven, is in its last part appropriate sentiment to feel about Hamden's dead:

O God, beneath Thy guiding hand
Our exiled fathers crossed the sea,
And when they trod the wintry strand,
With prayer and psalm they worshipped Thee.

Laws, freedom, truth, and faith in God
Came with those exiles o'er the waves,
And where their pilgrim feet have trod
The God they trusted guards their graves.

And here Thy name, O God of love,
Their children's children shall adore,
Till these eternal hills remove,
And spring adorns the earth no more.

Part III
Wheels Begin to Turn

PART III

WHEELS BEGIN TO TURN

1836-1886

MANUFACTURING in Hamden, already under way at Eli Whitney's gun factory, the two concerns on the canal, and other smaller businesses in the town, might be said to have received considerable impetus from the establishment of the two railroads which passed through the town, one on the east side and the other on the west. To the poverty-stricken state of Connecticut railroads offered a chance to export manufactured goods to distant markets, and factories sprung up rapidly in this period, in Hamden particularly upon Mill River. The water power in the river was somewhat increased by the return to it of waters that had formerly been diverted to the canal.

The first railroad in Connecticut, the Hartford and New Haven, was chartered in 1833, and trains were in operation to Meriden by 1839 and to Hartford the next year. Railroad traffic between New Haven and New York was not opened until 1849.

When the Canal Company obtained in 1846 a charter to build a railroad, the towpath appeared to be the logical place for it. Although much grading for the road was provided for by its use, some divergences were made from this route, notably for a mile or more from Centerville to Mount Carmel, where the tracks ran alongside the traveled road. Some landowners had asked to have the line run in front of their homes rather than behind them; so the road was in front of the

Mount Carmel meetinghouse and the Sherman house. By 1847 the road was completed as far as Plainville. A table of fares, published in 1849, read:

New Haven to Hamden Plains	4 miles	\$.12
to Centerville	6 "	.15
to Ives	7 "	.20
to Mt. Carmel	8 "	.20
to S. Bradley's	10 "	.25 all Hamden depots.

HENRY AUSTIN

The erection of the old New Haven depot in 1849 had a special interest for Hamden because it was designed by Henry Austin, who was born in Mount Carmel in 1804. He served an apprenticeship under Ithiel Town, the designer of Center and Trinity Churches in New Haven, the old State House, and the truss bridge at Lake Whitney. Mr. Town had collected what was probably the best architectural library in America, and the opportunity given Austin to consult this collection, along with that of working with so talented a teacher, prepared him for a distinguished career. He set up his own office in 1836, and in the course of fifty-five years spent in his profession trained so many other men that he was referred to as the "Father of Architects."

Henry Austin designed the old Yale Library (now Dwight Hall), the old New Haven House on the present site of the Hotel Taft, where it was said that "even the garret chambers were fit for a Prince," several of the older bank buildings of New Haven—Tradesmen's, Yale, Mechanics, and New Haven Savings—the imposing brownstone gateway of the historic Grove Street Cemetery with its bold inscription, "The

Dead Shall Be Raised," and many homes and white, wooden spired churches. In building his best church, the one in Danbury, he attempted to imitate Town's feat at Center Church, New Haven, of constructing the 210-foot spire within the tower and raising it into position with windlasses; but when the spire was within inches of its proper place, a guy rope gave way, and the structure turned upside down and crashed through the roof of the church. Austin built the New Haven depot at a cost of \$40,000. The building stood at the corner of Chapel and Union Streets, with a tower at each end. The tower on Chapel Street was 140 feet high, with a bell and a clock, the latter a gift of James Brewster, president of the railroad and also founder of the New Haven carriage industry. A decided architectural innovation was the suspension of the main floor from a trussed roof by numerous iron rods, which many people viewed with misgiving.

Mr. Austin also designed the monument erected at Coventry in 1846 to the memory of Nathan Hale, Revolutionary War hero, best remembered for his dying words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Henry Austin was a genial, kindly man, in personal appearance short and stocky, invariably wearing a black broadcloth frockcoat, and in his old age a brown wig, which contrasted oddly with his wrinkled face. He died in New Haven in 1891.

STAGE LINES

Travel by stagecoach or hack, even along the line of the railroad, was maintained up until 1890. In 1843 the Farmington Mail Stage left the Tontine Hotel in

New Haven three days a week, immediately after the arrival of the New York boat, getting into Farmington at 7 P.M. Fares were:

New Haven to Hamden Plains	5 miles	\$.25
to the Steps	9 "	.50
to Cheshire	14 "	.75

The Farmington and Plymouth line, leaving the Eagle Hotel at State and George Streets, twice a week, at 6.30 A.M., charged a 25c. fare to Hamden, and \$1.25 to Farmington. About 1857 the turnpike companies surrendered their charters, returning the roads to the towns for maintenance.

Blacksmith shops were a necessary service in the hey-day of horse-drawn vehicles. Those in Hamden were located as follows: Ezra Cooper's in Centerville; Edward Dickerman's in Mount Carmel, across the road from the meetinghouse and a little to the south; Samuel Todd's, near the corner of Whitney Avenue and Tuttle Avenue; Russell Leek's, on Dixwell Avenue, near Shepard Avenue, built in 1820, and later moved to the east side of the road, under the management of Elihu and John Sperry, until it was torn down to make way for the Northampton railroad; and Peter Neilson's shop was in Whitneyville on what later became Eli Whitney Park. The O'Connell shop on Dixwell Avenue at Arch Street is the only one standing today.

GENERAL STORES

For many years there were only three general stores in the town: Kimberly's in Mount Carmel; Harvey Bradley's on Hamden Plains a few hundred yards north of the Methodist Church, from about 1830; and James Day's, on the west side of Whitney Avenue, a short

distance north of the Whitney factory. Mr. Day came to Hamden in 1842, from Amsterdam, New York, and set up his store. The lake was at that time only a chain of three good-sized ponds, which provided excellent fishing. Mr. Day was himself an ardent fisherman, and he kept a number of flat-bottomed boats for fisherman's hire. These immediately became popular and were well patronized. Day's boathouse on the waterside across the turnpike from his store became the regular recreational point for Yale students.

An old bill of Russell Leek's, for groceries and other necessities from his store, reads as follows:

To 1 gall. Rum	\$0.62
To 1 gall. good Rum	.75
To 9 Load Sugar	1 35
To 100 Rye Flour and 1 gll Rum	3 73
To 2½ Gll molases	1 44
To 1 gll cider Brandy	.44
To ½ pt. Blown Salt	.13
To pay for coulering	.97
To 1 gll rum	.75

The first two items would seem to indicate a refreshing candor on the part of the storekeeper!

TOWN OFFICERS

In the town election of 1835 the following offices were filled:

three selectmen,	seven tythingmen,
treasurer,	constable and collector of
assessors,	state tax,
board of relief,	six constables,
eight surveyors of highways,	six grand jurors,
sealer of weights and meas-	five fence viewers,
ures,	eleven howards (haywards),
sealer of dry measures,	eleven poundkeepers.

Ambrose Tuttle of Mount Carmel was at this time a justice of the peace, a position which he most adequately filled for more than ten years. He was grandson to Nathaniel Tuttle; and his father, Jesse, born in Mount Carmel in 1759, built his home on the Cheshire Road north of the mountain. Jesse lived to be ninety years old and took an active part in the affairs of the town, as did his sons when they matured. Leverett shared his father's political affiliations, while Ambrose did not, and when the father discussed the qualifications of the two sons for a certain town office, he said, "They're both pretty smart men, but Leverett is a *leetle* the best qualified." Although Leverett was a selectman six times and Ambrose but twice, Ambrose served his town well in many capacities. He was scarcely of age when he became a constable, and later an assessor of taxes. He was captain of militia in 1812, and acted as clerk of the church and the school. While justice of the peace he made the following entries regarding a case in which a man beat his wife:

For travel to make arrest,	3 miles	\$.15
For arrest		.15
For travel with prisoner to court,	3 miles	.75
For serving 7 summons for witnesses by reading		.63
For travel to gaol with prisoner,	10 miles	2.50
		<hr/> 4.63
Costs for witnesses, &c.		7.07
		<hr/> 11.70
Total		

TOWN MEETINGS

The town meeting, found nowhere but in New England, is still a government that is truly independent in

a world where democracy is facing a desperate crisis. Hamden town meetings have always been forums in which every man who had an opinion or a question stood up unafraid, to voice it; and there have been many issues that had two sides well thrashed out with oft-times crude but telling oratory. If it is true that Connecticut Yankees are characteristically hard-bitten, pinchpenny, tight-fisted, cantankerous, and penurious, because the glacier left the state such poor and pebbly soil, from which it was so hard to wrest a living—then equally typical is the trait of shrewd, persuasive, forensic oratory born and fostered in town-meeting arguments, examples of which could be chosen from Hamden's records at random through the years. On the floors of Connecticut town meetings men have gained talent and experience for public office, so well that in the period between 1798 and 1889 there were in the United States Senate 34 Connecticut-born men representing 14 other states; and in the House of Representatives, 187 Connecticut-born men, from 22 other states.

Hamden town meetings have shown more interest and excitement in local controversies than about affairs concerning the state and nation. An enormous amount of passion has been expended first and last on school matters.

While the first town meetings were held in the Mount Carmel Church, they began by 1788 to meet in more conveniently reached private homes in Centerville—at Joseph Pardee's in 1788, Theophilus Goodyear's in 1790, Jared Cooper's in 1798. In 1805 the citizens voted "to take into consideration whether we will Remove our town meeting or Build a town House or Remain as we are, at the next adjourned town meet-

ing." They later voted to adjourn to Samuel Atwater's dwelling house. In 1806, they voted that public meetings were again to be held at the home of Jared Cooper. They named auditors of town accounts, Eli Whitney among them, and decided to have no more than five selectmen, to be chosen "by ballot by marking." In 1822, men worked out their road tax on the roads at the rate of 75c. a day and \$1.50 a day for a man and team. The workers furnished their own tools and were expected to "do a good day's work." There were frequent town-meeting adjurations to the selectmen to oversee the work.

In 1835 a meeting "holden" in Jesse Goodyear's tavern, on the present site of the town hall, passed by-laws for the restraint of neat cattle, horses, and geese from running at large on the commons and highways of the town. This was the most important business of the day; next in importance was a vote to hold electors' meetings at the Centerville House (the name which Jesse Goodyear used for his tavern) and to remove the "town chest" to Uriah Foote's. This chest probably contained the town records. Mr. Foote lived at Centerville on property a part of which he had sold to Grace Episcopal Church for its second building.

Some of the entries in the records are quaintly worded:

The vote was rescinded and for nothing had.

This vote is now invalid, void and of none effect.

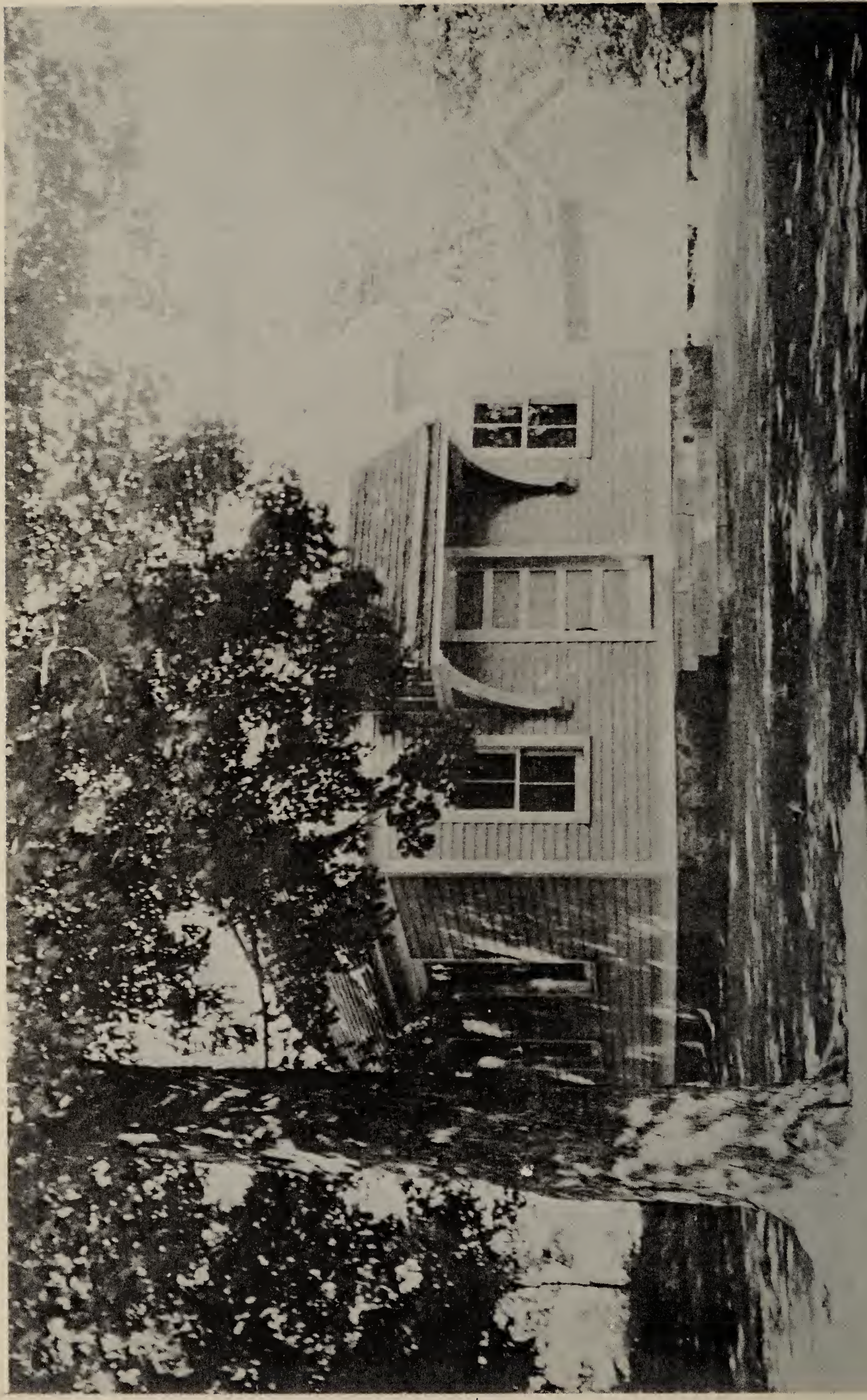
Voted . . . that we place boundary stones that
will be permanent for a long time.

Deeds sometimes read, "for the consideration of Love and Goodwill," instead of the now familiar "one dollar and other valuable considerations."



Peter Nielsen's Whitneyville Blacksmith Shop

Gift of Arnold G. Dana



West Woods One-Room School

Photo by Carl J. Jensen

For the care of the town poor, lawbooks belonging to the town were sold in 1799; and in 1809, "three lawbooks and five sermons" were sold for this purpose. It is interesting here to speculate upon how much better off the poor of Hamden became from the sale of sermons, and who was the buyer? That they could be sold at all was a high tribute to their composer! The 1804 town meeting had voted that "the town poor be voted off single," and in 1806 they were to be "supported by a Contractor." Legislation reducing the responsibility of the state for the care of paupers, and saddling the burden upon the towns more completely than in any other state, was passed by the General Assembly in 1819. The citizens of Hamden talked of setting up a town workhouse, but for many years they did no more than talk. In 1824 the selectmen were directed to procure a workhouse and appoint a poor master "as the Law directs" (presumably the 1819 state legislation). Conditions at that time in the New Haven workhouse were troubling the selectmen who said that they were beginning to think "the vicious and virtuous poor should be separated."

Ten years later, in 1834, a special Hamden town meeting on "an almshouse and workhouse for the town poor" passed the following motion:

That the Selectmen be requested and empowered to purchase a situation at the expense of sd town for the purpose of converting it to a house of correction for the accommodation of the poor of sd town and all those who shall become disorderly, in consequence of which it shall be thought necessary to place them under the management and control of the keeper of said house, but if considered by the selectmen not proper or expedient at the present time, to contract with some suitable person or persons to support the poor of sd

town for such term as they, the Selectmen, shall deem desirable.

By 1838, committees were still being appointed on the purchase of a town poorhouse; in that year, Alfred Bassett, Jesse Mansfield, Arba and Elihu Dickerman, and Harvey Bradley.

TOWN DEPOSIT FUND

In 1835 the town books recorded that "there has been an Act of Congress to regulate the deposits of public money." This was the money thereafter known as the Town Deposit Fund. It became available to the town as the result of President Andrew Jackson's hatred for the United States Bank and the subsequent closing of it. Jackson was the first President to come from the poor farmer class, and in order to decrease the power of the aristocratic group who controlled the Bank, he took Federal funds from it and deposited them in every state in the Union. By this measure, also, he was appealing for the vote of the poor man who in most states had recently been enfranchised, in Connecticut in 1818. In July, 1837, Hamden resolved

that this town will receive its proportion of the money which is or may be deposited with this state by the United States in pursuance of the act of Congress entitled, "An Act to Regulate the Deposits of the Public Money" . . . and on the terms specified in this state's act entitled, "An Act Accepting a Portion of the Surplus Funds Belonging to the United States, Providing for the Safe Keeping of Them," and appropriating the interest accruing therefrom for the promotion of education and other purposes.

Hamden's share of the fund was \$4,278.85; Jared Bassett was named its agent for the town, Russell Pierpont

treasurer, Roderick Kimberly and James Ford agents and managers of the fund. They were directed not to lend more than \$500 nor less than \$100 to any one person, to collect interest annually, and to foreclose on delinquent borrowers.

Several successive town meetings were held to act upon the disposition of the interest from this fund—one would allocate it to school expenses, and the next would rescind the action; and promptly another town meeting would be demanded and the schools again favored, until the patience of the selectmen was exhausted, and they requested the townspeople not to ask "for any other special town meeting touching or in any way relating to the interest of the town deposit fund." In 1843 half the income was diverted to general expense, but in 1845 the whole amount was again voted to school use.

The town had its troubles with worthless currency. In 1810 the town meeting voted "that the treasurer receive of Hezekiah Johnson, town collector, ten dollars Gloucester bank bills at par, provided he settle his Rate book with the town within one week." A year later the treasurer was authorized to pay \$2 for a counterfeit bill taken by Allen Dickerman, collector, and later it was voted "that the counterfeit two-dollar bill now in the treasurer's hands be destroyed." In 1825 it was voted "to receive bills on the Egle Bank which Eli Dickerman collected on his Rait Books before the bank failed."

TEMPERANCE

There was a great temperance movement about 1838, and reactions were felt in Hamden. In 1844 the East Plains Church voted that all applicants for membership

must be total abstainers "from all intoxicating liquor as a beverage," and the Mount Carmel Church took similar action. The General Assembly of Connecticut passed in 1839 "An Act *Relating to the Sale of Spirituous Liquors*," and it found Hamden in an ultimately generous mood, for although the town at first voted to license no more than four tavernkeepers, there immediately appeared a petition signed by thirty-three electors for another town meeting in which this action was rescinded and a substitute recorded which permitted "every elector" to sell wine and spirituous liquor. In 1845, the General Assembly passed "An Act to *Regulate and Restrain the Sale of Wines and Spirituous Liquors*," and Hamden's commissioners—Willis Churchill, Elias Ford, and Ezra Alling, 2d—tightened up the town's liquor privilege by denying a license to Sherlock Perkins of Centerville.

In 1844, Perkins had rented from Albert Goodyear and T. H. Bassett the Centerville House on the northwest corner of the crossroads, along with a "ball alley." In 1846 he rented the new Centerville House (Hotel), across the turnpike, from Arba Dickerman and Albert Goodyear, retaining the "ball alley," and securing from the owners of the old Centerville House a pledge not to sell spirits during the term of the lease. The transfer of the old name to the new hotel created a confusion which was not soon removed; for in 1850 the tavern of Jesse Goodyear is again referred to as the Centerville House.

MULBERRY TREES

In the mid-eighteenth century a great interest was exhibited in the cultivation of native silk. Perhaps it

sprung from the remembrance that James I had tried to force the Colony of Virginia to raise silk in preference to tobacco. President Ezra Stiles and a Mr. Aspinwall introduced the cultivation in the North, experimenting with it in the towns of Mansfield and New Haven. They received encouragement for their venture from the General Assembly of 1783, which offered a bounty of 10 s. for every one hundred white mulberry trees planted, and 3 s. for every ounce of raw silk produced. The Connecticut Silk Society was organized in 1785. At one Yale Commencement the gowns worn in the procession were made of silk raised and woven in Connecticut.

There were at least two places in Hamden where this culture was tried. John W. Barber said, "About three miles north from New Haven, upwards of 100 acres of land are now [1836] in a state of preparation for raising mulberry trees, and extensive preparations are making for the silk business." In the garret of the old house at Cherry Hill, Mrs. Mix raised a goodly supply of large yellow cocoons, from which silk of excellent quality was reeled and spun. Considerable silk was also made on the north slope of Mill Rock, on the farm of Charles P. Augur.

As early as 1760, Jared Eliot said, in his *Essay on Tree Planting*: "I observe in New Haven they have planted a range of trees all around the marketplace, . . . it is a pity they were not mulberry trees instead of buttonwood and elm."

HAMDEN TREES ON NEW HAVEN GREEN

Hamden has had an interest in several of the tree plantings on New Haven Green. When the last con-

siderable planting was made in 1839 at the order of the Common Council, it consisted of 150 maples and a few elms on the upper Green, which had hitherto been almost bare of trees. Cankerworms had ravaged the elms in the previous year, so a marked preference was shown for maples, and Chester Alling of Hamden furnished the trees and set them out.

The first pair of elm trees, which were planted in front of the present location of the New Haven Public Library and which gave Elm Street its name, were set out by one of the Coopers, of whom there were many in Hamden. This huge pair was planted in 1686. Dr. Leonard Bacon makes the following reference to these trees, in speaking of the parsonage erected there for Reverend James Pierpont, the pastor of Center Church:

As the people were bringing in their freewill offerings of one kind and another to complete and furnish the building, one man (a poor parishioner, William Cooper by name), desiring to do something for the object, and having nothing else to offer, brought on his shoulder from the farms two elm saplings, and planted them before the door of the minister's home.

The trees grew to beautiful maturity and were not cut down until 1840.

The site of the Pierpont house has a further interest for Hamden, for it was there that "Squire" Simeon Bristol, the moderator of Hamden's first town meeting, built in 1800 a house for his son William, who afterwards became a Judge of both the Superior Court and the Supreme Court in the state, and of the United States District Court. He was also a Member of Congress. This house was designed by David Hoadley, the builder of United Church. It had an exquisite classical portico, with a beautiful garden beside it, laid out in formal

beds bordered with box. The house was razed in 1908 to make way for the Public Library. Mr. Bristol's son George Augustus married Mary Hawley, daughter of Stephen and Mary Bellamy Hawley, who will be remembered as, respectively, one of the first ministers to candidate unsuccessfully in the Mount Carmel Church and one of Samuel Bellamy's daughters.

CHAUNCEY IVES, SCULPTOR

Chauncey Ives, born in 1810 in Hamden, decided by the time he was sixteen to be an artist. His family, in typical Yankee fashion, felt that art was both effeminate and unprofitable; and to a Yankee, what was not profitable was indeed useless! In spite of the family opposition, Ives became apprenticed to a woodcarver, E. R. Northrop of New Haven, and thereafter studied with the leading sculptor of the state, Hezekiah Augur. He went to Boston, where he slowly established a modest reputation, but his real work was done after he was thirty, when, owing to a delicate lung condition, he made his home in Italy, coming back only for brief visits. His bust of Professor Benjamin Silliman, now in the New York Historical Society, and the one of Ithiel Town in the Yale Art Gallery, were considered his finest work. He was commissioned by the state of Connecticut to carve its contributions to the National Hall of Statuary in the national capitol. There today may be seen his "Roger Sherman" and "Jonathan Trumbull." A duplicate of the latter appears on the façade at the state capitol at Hartford. A statue of Bishop Brownell stands on the grounds of Trinity College at Hartford; his "Scholar" is in the Corcoran Gallery at Washington; and his "Flower Girl" and "Re-

becca at the Well" are in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York city. His last public work, a bronze historical group called "The White Captive and Indians," was unveiled the year after his death (1895) in Lincoln Park, Newark, New Jersey.

Some critics of Chauncey Ives, including his biographer, said that he debased his art by producing many decorative parlor pieces. Among these pieces, similar to the Rogers groups, were his "Pandora," "Bacchante," "Shepherd Boy and Little Piper," and "Cupid with His Net." They appealed tremendously to the public, who bought all that he produced, making him a definite financial success, and doubtless vindicating in his own mind his choice of a profession as having been both wise *and* profitable!

Laredo Taft was forced by Ives's quite obvious importance to write a biographical sketch of him for his *American Sculpture*, but the following comments were not meant to be friendly:

The Garland about the "Flower Girl" in particular is a miracle of misapplied patience, and around the base is scattered equally painful vegetation. . . . "The Scholar" is a pretty schoolboy holding a bunch of papers and apparently slipping from the stump. . . . Of all the dead in the National Gallery, "Trumbull" and "Sherman" seem the most conscious of being dead, the most solicitous to appear alive.

Such is success, when it is judged by a competitor!

SCHOOLS

After the General Assembly in 1795 created Connecticut school societies, public education had been separated from ecclesiastical and other municipal interests.

The school societies set up officers to receive money due the town from the state School Fund; and school visitors were named to supervise the schools and examine the teachers. Management of the schools was left to school committees composed of one committeeman from each school district, each of whom provided a schoolhouse and teacher for his district. A clerk was appointed to record committee proceedings, and a collector to receive the taxes levied on each district. In 1821 the state was paying out every year to each school society \$2 on every thousand in its tax list. There were two societies in Hamden: Mount Carmel and East Plains.

One of the oldest notations with regard to learning in Hamden was written by Dr. Samuel Bradley, who came when he was four years old to live with his grandfather Joel Bradley in Mount Carmel. He remembered that "Parson" Ives, the Episcopal minister in Cheshire who often came to preach in Hamden, taught him his letters from the prayerbook.

In Javin Woodin's school record, the following appears for 1801:

At a school meeting held at the schoolhouse voted that the public free money which has not been expended the winter past, shall be paid out this summer in a free school to begin the 5th of May and to be kept by Miss Esther Gibbs, provided that the public money which has been drawn this winter past be laid out in such a manner that every scholar in the district that has been to school the winter past shall have an equal part of it.

They voted that the master be boarded at the discretion of the committee, and that the committeeman "find the wood for \$3 a month." They decided in February to invite Mr. Bryant Law "to teach for two months to

come, and give him \$10 per month." In 1807 Jared Ives was paid \$16.50 a month.

Female teachers in 1803 were paid 75c. a week. Parents had to sign up at the beginning of the school term, and unless they did so their children might not attend; nor could they send more children than they had signed for. The most frequent entry, and often the only one for school committee meetings, was that "two-thirds of the public money be spent for winter school, and one-third for a summer school."

The amount of money expended on the Mount Carmel schools shows a surprising decline beginning in 1804, when it was \$280.94; in 1805, it was \$212.59; in 1812, \$157.64; and in 1813, \$140.83.

Interest in education was definitely at a low ebb in the early 1800's, the towns felt scarcely any responsibility, and they allowed schools to be run, no matter how poorly, by committeemen often utterly unqualified for the task. Sometimes the state funds were meagerly supplemented with tuition charges. Hamden used the Town Deposit Fund interest from 1837.

In 1825, the Mount Carmel South District voted "to erect a schoolhouse by taxing ourselves on the List of 1824, not exceeding \$200." They sold the old school house at "publick" auction to Javin Woodin for \$16.50, "likewise 40 lbs. 3 oz. of old iron to Russell Leek for 3½c. per pound (\$1.31), a pair of bellows to Jesse Goodyear 16/100."

Schoolhouses were designed with economy and not convenience in mind. The desks were nailed to the wall around the room, with stationary benches over which the children were forced to climb. The small children had a long low bench without a back upon

which they were expected to sit quietly for six hours a day.

The long-hand school committee records of Mount Carmel District 6 (later known as Mix District) were kept in 1843 by no less than nine members of the Good-year family: Jesse, Chauncey, Simeon, Andrew, Seymour, Lewis, Horace, Marcus, and Albert.

The school register of the original first schoolhouse in Mount Carmel, kept by the teacher, Caroline A. Dickerman, showed no foreign names; some of them were:

Anderson	Ives (five of them)
Barber	Mathews
Bassett	Miller
Bradley	Peck
Grannis	Root
Hubbell	Todd

and not surprisingly, nine Dickermans.

One of Deacon Ezra's bright sons, Watson Dickerman—who later became President of the New York stock exchange—was a pupil there, and the story is told of the day on which he first presented himself at the school. The teacher asked him his age, and he replied, "I'm ten, but I'm smart enough for eleven,"—and so he proved to be.

In 1838 the East Plains schools had an average attendance as follows: Southwest, 25; Northwest, 33; Middle, 35; Mill, 41; Southeast, 28. The pupils were taught reading, arithmetic, geography, grammar, and history. The school visitors reported the Middle and Mill schools as being in "bad" condition, and the other three as "Medium." By 1841, the Society was begin-

ning to feel uneasy about these unsatisfactory conditions. They voted "that the meeting recommend a public examination of the several schools in this Society near the close of this winter term of schooling."

Reverend Austin Putnam, writing as a school visitor in 1842, said among other things:

Schools are not visited at all by parents. The majority of the parents are in favor of cheap schools:—they are in favor of long ones, however, especially in summer, as they like to get the little children out of the way. . . . There are five districts in this Society (East Plains). Three of the schoolhouses are nearly new. These are what would be called very pretty houses, but they are very imperfect. They are too small, some of the seats have no backs, nor very easily ventilated, etc. The other two schoolhouses are very old and very poor. The location of our schoolhouses is very injudicious. Without exception, they are almost in the road, exposed to all the noise and dust of the public highway. One is on the bank of the Canal, another very near the railroad. Want of thoroughness in teaching is noticed. The visitors favor graded schools, but the moment any such thing is proposed, some will begin to think of the expense, and will say perhaps, that the schools as they are, are good enough for their children, and if any wish for better schools, they may pay for them.

Such conditions in the public schools led inevitably to the founding of a number of private schools, where better educational advantages might be obtained.

THE RECTORY SCHOOL

Reverend Charles W. Everest, the rector of Grace Church, decided in 1843 to establish in Centerville a boarding school for boys, a project which he might not have undertaken but for the necessity of augmenting



School

Play House

House

Cabin

*The Rectory School, Centerville
Hamden, Conn.
Rev. C.W. Everest Rector.*



The Mount Carmel Young Ladies' Female Seminary

his meager salary. With a nucleus of four boys in his home just above the crossroads, he began the Rectory School. He soon found it necessary to provide larger quarters and purchased the Deacon Hart place, south of the crossroads and on the west side of the turnpike. He enlarged the house, and added several other buildings, as the school rapidly gained popularity. Ponies were kept for the use of the boys, there was a large skating pond in the rear, and a boathouse was maintained on Mill River. A staff of assistant teachers taught academic subjects, and oddly enough for an institution headed by a churchman, Major James Quinn and Colonel John Arnold were employed as instructors of military tactics, the boys wearing uniforms of "West Point gray." The school was one of the first in the country to include military drill in the curriculum. In the school's most prosperous years, a maximum number of sixty-five boys were accepted, ranging from ten to sixteen years of age. Hundreds of the graduates entered the learned professions, the Army and Navy, and business life, and more than one entered Congress.

The School really supported the church, and memories of Mrs. Mary Wooding, who was one hundred years old on Christmas Day, 1941, included many about the Rectory School, beside which she lived for many years. She said that the long line of uniformed boys was impressive, as they marched in strict order to Sunday services at the church. A student, a doctor's son, was soundly whipped by Mr. Everest, but after suffering the chastisement the boy remarked, "Mr. Everest didn't seem to care how many things I broke while he was whipping me—but I guess the licking did me good." She remembered the excitement of the fire at the school, set by a boy who thought that burning

down the establishment would release him from further classes. The barn, with its six ponies, was destroyed, and parts of the other school buildings went with it. Mr. Everest had a black Newfoundland dog named "Lion," so intelligent and companionable that the boys idolized him. When the dog died, they begged for the privilege of holding funeral rights for him. They buried him in what is now Dr. Lay's front lawn, paying from their pocket money for the iron replica of the "Lion of Lucerne" set up over his grave, and mourning him as deeply as if he had been a human friend.

Speaking of Mr. Everest, Mrs. Wooding said that in spite of a stern and unsmiling aspect, he was warm-hearted and he loved and understood boys. At Christmas time he gave each child in the Sunday School a present of a candy cane, an orange, a cornucopia of candies, and a box of popcorn. There always seemed to be many more children in Sunday School at Christmas time, and he would look them over and say, "Well! I didn't know that we had such a big Sunday School!"

A prospectus of the school contained such information as the following:

Location,—the school is in a picturesque part of the State, sufficiently retired, yet easy of access. It is situated five miles north of New Haven, on the line of the New Haven and Northampton Railroad, and is thus removed from those temptations to vice and idleness incident to larger towns and cities.

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SCHOOL PLAN AND PRINCIPLES

Every boy is looked upon as a member of the Rector's family, and expected to conform cheerfully to the natural duties and requirements of such a relation. Thorough daily routine is maintained, leading naturally to habits of prompt obedience, manly deportment and

punctuality. The discipline is mild but firm. A boy of bad habits or insubordinate bearing will not knowingly be received, and if entered will be returned to his parents when his character becomes known. No effort will be spared to implant in each pupil's mind a true sense of *right and wrong*, and to develop the purest principles.

.

Hampers and boxes containing eatables, confectionery and the like are not approved.

.

A small weekly allowance of pocket money to be disbursed by the Rector, is recommended.

.

All books or papers brought to the School or received by pupils must have the Rector's approval.

.

Correspondence should be limited to the home circle.

.

The use of Tobacco in any form is absolutely prohibited.

.

The borrowing and lending of Money, clothing, or any articles of value is forbidden.

The order of the day included family prayers twice a day, and on Sunday there were two church services, a Bible lesson, and a "letter hour." Special holidays were Thanksgiving Day, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Ascension Day.

The school enjoyed Mr. Everest's management until 1870, and was thereafter conducted by his two sons. During the period in which private schools experienced their greatest popularity, his school held a place of national importance.

THE MOUNT CARMEL YOUNG LADIES
FEMALE SEMINARY

Three Dickerman sisters—Elizabeth, Abbie, and Fannie—daughters of Deacon Ezra Dickerman, established the Mount Carmel Young Ladies Female Seminary in 1849. Elizabeth had been sent in 1847 to the Seward Institute in Florida, New York, and Abbie went there the following year. Boarding schools for girls were a rarity, and the three sisters, recognizing the need of higher education for girls, overemphasized their feeling in this respect, in the redundancy of the school's name. Pupils were easily obtained, and soon a suitable building was erected at the top of the hill on the west side of the turnpike in Mount Carmel, a few rods north of Ives Street. At one time there were as many as forty to fifty girls enrolled, and some boys. In a few years, Elizabeth took charge of a similar school in Plymouth, Connecticut, but she was very frail, as were her sisters, and all of them died before they were twenty-five.

It was a period of many revivals, and the pastor of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church, Reverend Israel Warren, was moved to write a book about these girls, *The Sisters*, published by the American Tract Society of Boston in 1859. The volume contained nothing but religious material, long quotations from letters and diaries, showing the concern which the girls felt about their souls and those of their friends. A recurrent phrase throughout the doleful story was, "I have given myself anew to Christ." The following quotation is from the opening page:

It might be expected that persons educated as these young girls were, would have, even in childhood, seasons of marked religious impressions. Such was especially the case with Abbie, when she was scarcely seven

years old. As the family were sitting by the fireside, she began to weep, and on being questioned as to the cause, she said it was because she felt herself to be a sinner. . . . Ever after this, she and Elizabeth manifested much delight in spiritual things. . . . In 1840 the Church in Mount Carmel enjoyed a season of revival, . . . she strove to secure the presence of young companions and frequently expressed the most ardent desire for the conversion of souls.

.

She was more distressed in view of her guilt and danger as a sinner, and begged her mother's advice and prayers. . . .

In October, 1846, Elizabeth wrote,

"Resolved that from this time forth with divine assistance, I will renounce the pleasures of the world and seek to glorify God." She knelt with this resolution before her, and there solemnly and deliberately adopted it as the one great purpose of her future life, giving herself up to God and beseeching pardon and acceptance through the blood of the Redeemer.

Harrowing details of death and last words make up the burden of the story, which obviously was written as a proselyting book.

It was an evangelizing period, and at this time Russell Leek received a letter from his brother Horace, which said in part:

I received a letter from Dana the 22nd of October and one from Enos Woodin last spring,—letters of the greatest importance as they called it; it was all about Christ and Religion or Self-Righteousness. . . . I am not troubled about the world being burnt up; I had as leave the Milen[sic]ium would come one time as another, for we all have to die, and we might as well go in a mass.

Though Horace was not concerned, apparently there were plenty of Hamden men who were—having come under the influence of the Millerite or millennial teaching. Horace's letter shows that he had strong political opinions, too: "Tell me about all matters and things, except Whigism,—I know enough about that now."

THE FIRST CENTERVILLE MILLS

Mill River, already turning the wheels of industry in Whitneyville and Mount Carmel, was also the logical location for manufacturing establishments in the other villages through which it ran. The earliest ones in Centerville were set up on the stream, just south of the crossroads. The firm of Law & Bennett had a small building where they manufactured silk in 1838. Beside them to the south soon after, Galpin & Robinson set up a business of manufacturing carpets and other materials in what was called "a spinning factory." Its inventoried assets were: "Three sets of carding machines, 2 reels, one picker, one waste cleaner, one emery, 2000 pounds of wool, 2000 pounds of undyed filling, 2 stoves, 100 empty sacks, one barrel of sperm oil, one barrel of refined oil, 6 empty casks, and one regulator."

Leverett Candee, who gave his name to the great rubber factory of later days, acquired this place in 1843. He was born in Oxford, Connecticut, in 1795. He worked in stores, on the railroad, and in the paper mill in Westville. While engaged in the manufacture of suspenders on East Street in New Haven, Mr. Candee obtained from Charles Goodyear the first license to use the Goodyear patent for making rubber shoes.

Charles Goodyear was born in New Haven in 1800, but the Goodyear's of Centerville were his relatives,

and during his most successful years he spent much of his time in Mr. Candee's factory, supervising the use of his patent. He was a direct descendant in the fifth generation from Stephen Goodyear, who was for fifteen years Deputy Governor of New Haven Colony. When the hardware business in which Charles was associated with his father failed in 1830, he thereafter devoted his whole time and passionate attention to experiments with India rubber. He exhausted his financial resources, usually was deep in debt, and for many years of blasted hopes, heartbreaking disappointment and tireless labor, lived in the direst sort of poverty.

His discovery of the nitric-acid process which did away with the adhesiveness of rubber surfaces was only a short step in the direction toward which he was working, of putting rubber to practical use. In 1839 Nathaniel Hayward assigned him the patent for a process in which sulphur was used. This process was not completely satisfactory, and Goodyear continued his experiments, which were in all ten years. Then he accidentally dropped a mixture of rubber and sulphur upon a hot stove, and found that the addition of the extreme heat completed the process. Much more, however, remained to be done before the vulcanized rubber could be put to wide use.

Through a technicality, Goodyear's patent was invalidated in France, and it was stolen from him in England. He received a patent in this country in 1844, but was put to much expense in maintaining his rights under it, so that his profits from it were very small. At the World's Fair in London in 1851, he received the great Council medal, and the grand medal of honor at the Paris Exhibition in 1855. Daniel Webster made one of his greatest legal speeches, before the United

States Circuit Court, in behalf of Goodyear's patent rights.

Professor Joseph Roe of Yale said of Goodyear:

He had the spirit of the inborn inventor, caring little for money, and centering his whole life on mastering an obstinate material and rendering it useful to mankind. This objective was for him little less than a religion. It has been pointed out that Whitney's cotton gin was almost the only great invention which was clearly the work of one man. Goodyear's is another but with this difference; Whitney's invention was completed in a few weeks; Goodyear's took years of cruel struggle, but resulted in an equally great achievement.

Leverett Candee was loaned \$3,000 by Henry and Lucius Hotchkiss with which to start his new venture of making rubber shoes. The first shoes were unfavorably affected by atmospheric conditions and the rubber coating quickly became discolored. But an elastic varnish was soon developed in the Candee factory, and the difficulty was overcome. The business expanded rapidly, and by 1850, in spite of the enlarged buildings at the mill, a part of the work had to be done in New Haven; and in 1859, the site in Hamden, where 150 men were employed, was abandoned.

The Bassett family were small town capitalists of a sort in this neighborhood; as were the Goodyears. Alfred Bassett was mortgagor to a silversmith in Centerville in 1841—Franklin Hall, who listed his equipment as,

300 lbs. of scrap German silver,
30 gross German silver spoons,
2 anvils,
2 vises,
8 hand hammers,
1 small pair of Smith bellows,

- 1 set rollers,
- 2 polishing irons,
- 1 press,
- and dies.

THE AUGER FACTORY

A mile below Centerville, Willis Churchill set up a factory on Mill River in 1843 for manufacturing boring tools, chiefly augers and gimlets. Originally he had worked with the Ives brothers in their building at Mount Carmel, making brass, and town records speak of him as early as 1838. The village which clustered about the auger factory, located where Skiff Street now crosses Mill River, was known as Augerville, and the No. 7 schoolhouse on Skiff Street was called the Churchillville school.

COLT REVOLVERS AT THE WHITNEY FACTORY

Eli Whitney Blake came to Hamden in 1816 to assist his uncle Mr. Whitney at the Armory, and after Mr. Whitney's death in 1825, he and his brother Philos ran the business until Eli Whitney, 2d, became of age. Samuel Colt, inventor of the revolver, took out a patent at Hartford in 1835 for a revolving firearm, and later obtained others from England and France. In 1836 he set up a factory at Paterson, New Jersey, but the public was not interested in his invention, and the plant failed. Some of the weapons had been used in the Seminole War, where the Indians became disheartened fighting against men who could fire six times without reloading; and the Texas Rangers used them in the War with Mexico, Captain Sam Walker of the Rangers getting the Government to order one thousand revolvers.

The Mexican War in 1846 found Connecticut as greatly out of sympathy as she had been with the War of 1812. This time the President did not make the mistake of calling out the militia, but asked for volunteers instead.

In 1847, Mr. Colt came to Eli Whitney, 2d, who had assumed charge of the Whitneyville Armory in 1842, and persuaded him to take over the contract for the Government. The model was known as the Whitney-Walker Colt, and collectors now consider it the rarest and most highly prized of the Colt firearms.

Eli Whitney, 2d, completed many foreign and domestic contracts for rifles. The Harper's Ferry rifles were the first model to discard flintlocks and use percussion caps in their stead. Mr. Whitney introduced the steel barrel to replace the iron one, and constructed the machinery to drill it more accurately. During the war with Mexico, Colonel Jefferson Davis, leading a regiment from Mississippi, called upon the Ordnance Department at Washington for the best rifles that could be had, and was sent some of the Whitney rifles, which he declared to be the finest he had ever seen, saying that at Vera Cruz the men of one regiment refused to advance until they were equipped with them. About 8,000 guns were supplied to the Government then, and the number had arisen to 30,000 by 1856.

Kit Carson was quoted as saying that the Whitney Rifle was "just the thing for those setting out to cross the Plains."

In 1852 the Armory employed 500 men and was one of the largest in the United States. At the World's Exhibition at London in 1851, the interchangeable parts of the Whitney rifles excited much attention, and the British Government sent over a staff of officers to

study their manufacture. Their report caused many American milling machines to be sent to England.

ELI WHITNEY BLAKE

Eli Whitney Blake left the Whitney Armory when his cousin took it over, and he and his brother manufactured in Westville doorlocks and latches of their own invention. He had invented the mortice lock in 1836. In 1852 he was appointed on a committee to supervise the macadamizing of Whalley Avenue in New Haven, and soon realized the need for a machine which would break the stone into pieces of uniform size. He invented the stone breaker in 1858, a machine which revolutionized road building and mining.

One of Mr. Blake's twelve children, Henry Taylor Blake, who was born in Hamden, graduated from Yale in 1848, became a lawyer, and in much of his legal practice defended his father's infringed patent rights. Eli W. Blake wrote many valuable papers for scientific journals, some of which were collected into a small volume entitled *Original Solutions of Several Problems in Aerodynamics*. He received the degree of LL.D. from Yale in 1879. He was founder of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was once its president. His brother, Elihu Blake, married Nancy the daughter of Jonathan Mix, and in 1836 built the second Cherry Hill house in Hamden.

HALL'S FERTILIZERS

When William D. Hall and a few of his farmer neighbors pooled \$5,000 in 1850, they established a business which made use of waste from slaughterhouses.

One of their products was neat's-foot oil, and this lubricant was supplied regularly to the Mount Carmel Axle Works. But by experiment they came upon a more valuable product. Menhaden fish were very plentiful that season and Mr. Hall, heading the Quinnipiac Company, as they were called, experimented with a method of extracting the oil from the fish. He discarded the older method of boiling them in kettles and used steam in tanks instead. By this means the separation was readily accomplished, the oil rising to the top and offal sinking to the bottom. Mr. Hall found that the solid matter, minus the oil, was of inestimable value as farm fertilizer, much needed by the depleted New England soil. Heretofore farmers had supposed that land which had been under cultivation for an extended period would have to be abandoned for farming purposes, unless it were renewed with guano from South America, which was expensive. Mr. Hall's company sold a yearly average of 500 tons of his product.

The exact location of the fertilizer works is not recorded, but quite understandably it was "in a remote corner" of northeastern Mount Carmel. Mr. Hall's house was on the town boundary with North Haven, and though he claimed residence in Hamden, he could enter the other town without leaving his house. During this period Russell Leek paid \$6.75 to a concern at Oyster Point in New Haven for 9,000 fish; and it is reasonable to suppose that such a great quantity was bought in the interest of the fertilizer company.

JAMES J. WEBB AND "SPRING GLEN"

James J. Webb returned to Hamden with a fortune which he had accumulated at Santa Fe, New Mexico,

in the mercantile business. He purchased on the Cheshire Road the large estate of the Vanden Heuvel's who were West Indies planters, and he transformed the place into a thriving dairy farm which he named "Spring Glen." He was immensely interested in the improvement of farming, and especially in a uniform standard for commercial fertilizers. In 1875 Mr. Webb helped in establishing the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. The Station's trial grounds have been in later years located in Hamden, on Evergreen Avenue at Kenwood Road. Inferior fertilizers were driven from the market as a result of the Station's activities. Mr. Webb was a stalwart leader in Hamden affairs—selectman, state senator, president of the New Haven County Agricultural Society and of the New Haven Farmer's Club, and member of the State Board of Agriculture.

THE COUNTY FAIR

The New Haven County Agricultural Society was an organization of prime importance locally, for farming was by all odds the chief industry during this period. At their fair, held annually on New Haven Green, Mount Carmel invariably won the prize for the greatest number and finest quality of oxen exhibited. There was a keen rivalry for this honor between Hamden and Woodbridge.

Sterling Bradley, for so many years the keeper of the toll gate on the Cheshire turnpike at Mount Carmel, was famed for his Durham cattle, and on county fair day a long procession of Hamden cattle starting from the Bradley place, wound its slow way to New Haven Green, gathering length as other farmers along

the route fell into line with their prize entries. On one banner day, 125 yoke of oxen on the Green included 90 from Hamden, and the jubilant owners celebrated their victory by attaching the team to a plow and turning a furrow north up Whitney Avenue. The parade was led by marshals on horseback, and the oxen flaunted their blue ribbons. The plow was guided by ninety-year-old Elias Ford; and one can imagine that at the end of the long slow trip, Mr. Ford at least, was tired!

LIVESTOCK ON THE FARMS

From the earliest days of New Haven Colony, the raising of live stock had through the years been carried on by most of the families, and a man's estate was reckoned more often in valuable cattle than in actual money. In 1663, in the inventory of William Gibbard's estate were included 2 oxen, 3 cows and a calf, 1 heifer, 2 beasts two years old, and 1 yearling, some sheep, 10 swine in the woods "if they are alive and can be found," 5 small swine at home, and 8 horses and colts.

In 1765, Caleb Mix's estate included 1 pair of oxen, 1 bull, 1 three-year-old steer, 2 steers two years old, 5 yearlings, 5 cows, 1 two-year-old heifer, 2 cows and calves, 31 sheep, 6 ewes and lambs, 1 horse, and 1 mare.

In 1773 Captain Daniel Bradley's estate included a horse, 3 cows, 3 calves, 7 heifers, and 3 swine.

Every farm had a sizable number of cattle. Oxen were used more extensively than horses, as they could be turned into meat after their working days were over. Great pains were taken to have young cattle come along to replace the old, and to prepare and preserve for table use a good supply of hams, beef tongues, dried beef,

and barrels of salt pork and corned beef. The possession of so much cattle made it necessary to raise hay in quantity. In rotating his crops a farmer would make meadows of his best land, and he did not waste even his poorest swampy piece, which could produce hay suitable at least for bedding the animals. After the upland hay was cut, long trips were made to the salt meadows to mow the coarse grass there, dry it, make rounded stacks of it, and later haul it in sleds across the winter ice. There were pastures in which the cattle could graze all summer, the owner visiting them occasionally to see that all was well.

Much of the milk used in New Haven after 1830 was supplied by Hamden dairymen. In 1840 about four hundred quarts a day were taken into the city. One of the larger producers was Griswold Gilbert of Hamden Plains, who was then milking seventy quarts a day. Mr. Gilbert was seven times chosen as first selectman, in 1843 and again in 1851-57.

SMALL FRUITS

Attorney Benjamin Douglass set out an orchard of sixty-four cherry trees just north of East Rock, as early as 1775. The best-known cherry orchards in the town have been in the vicinity of Mix Avenue, where the name Cherry Hill was used because of the quantity of the fruit grown.

Peaches were raised more extensively before the year 1850, when a yellow blight attacked the trees. Many farmers were discouraged from further attempts to raise them, although some parts of Hamden Plains still managed to produce good crops. In 1862 Julius

Gorham claimed to have sold a load of the fruit for \$108, a single peach weighing twelve ounces. In a typical Yankee deal, made in 1855, William Church promised to supply farmers with peach trees free of charge on condition that he receive half the fruit for nine years! As the crop of 1860 was a bumper one with a yield of one hundred baskets to an acre, it is safe to assume that Mr. Church lost nothing by his hazardous speculation.

THE POOR FARM

In 1850 the townspeople, having at last sufficiently considered the matter of having a poor farm, called in half of the Town Deposit Fund which amounted to \$2,139.42½, and a town meeting of the following year voted to purchase the Jesse Tuttle farm. This place was situated in the northwestern part of the town, and was used for a poor farm for six years. In 1856 the town leased the Enos Brooks farm, comprised of 104 acres in the extreme northern part of town. Mr. Brooks died in 1860, and in his will he bequeathed the farm to the town of Hamden, subject to its use by his widow during her lifetime, and with the stipulation that the income from the farm was to be applied to the maintenance of roads and bridges. To this day the wishes of Mr. Brooks regarding roads and bridges have been carried out.

Soon after the town took over this property the Tuttle farm was sold, and town meeting sanctioned suitable buildings to be erected by the selectmen on the new poor farm, "to accommodate the paupers of the town at their discretion" (not the pauper's discretion, we assume!). The widow's interest in the farm was

bought by the town, Mrs. Brooks accepting an annual payment of \$100 in exchange for her rights. She went away and strangely enough, after an absence of more than twenty years, returned to the farm in her old age, and died there in 1880. The town placed a monument over her grave in the Central Burying Ground.

OTHER TOWN AFFAIRS

A town meeting voted in 1850 to open and work a public highway near James Ives's factory "whenever the sum of \$150 shall be raised by subscription for working the same, either in money or labor." This road eventually became Broadway. Later it was voted "to pay James Ives \$60 for land thrown out and work done to make highway acceptable by the town by its last preceding vote."

In 1853 a town meeting granted permission to the "Wallingford, North Haven and New Haven Plank Road Company" to run their road through Hamden, "provided said company permit the inhabitants of said town to pass the gates in their said town toll-free." But the road was never constructed.

Bridges had recently been an expensive care to the town, for a town meeting had voted to lay an additional town tax of two cents on a dollar for the rebuilding of several bridges carried off "by the late freshet."

Among the elected town officers were six measurers of wood, and as wood was the staple fuel and many Hamden farmers sold it from their land, the duties of these officials apparently were similar to those of supervisors of weights and measures. One such officer kept the following notes on one of his jobs:

Measured two piles of wood, Length of wood
4 ft. 9 in.

One pile was 790 ft. long, 5 ft. high
" " " 831 " " 4 " "

Total, 298 cords and 24 ft.

It can be seen that not every seller of wood could compute the number of cords sold! Statistics of this time show Hamden as selling about 1,465 cords of wood in a year.

Lewis Warner of Dunbar, who had been first selectman in 1839, was in 1849 Hamden's representative to the legislature. He had no means of transportation to Hartford, except to walk, which he did! leaving home at 10 P.M. and arriving in time for the 10 A.M. opening of business in the House.

Town taxes still were collected by the lowest bidder, Russell Jacobs doing the work for \$50 a year. There were eleven justices of the peace—Leverett Hitchcock, Griswold Gilbert, Henry Tuttle, Loyal Todd, Ambrose Tuttle, Horace Potter, James Ford, Eli Dickerman, Richard Warner, Augustus Dickerman, and Alphonse Johnson. School visitors were David Thayer, Reverend Austin Putnam, Amos Bradley, Griswold Gilbert, Eli Smith, and Dr. Edwin Swift.

Dr. Swift came to Hamden in May, 1849, just after his graduation from New York University. For fifty years he was the community physician, who knew and shared the people's joys and sorrows, and he stood in an intimate advisory capacity on an equality with the ministers. Doctors were not highly paid in those days; in the settlement of an estate, thirty-nine doctor's calls were listed at 50c. a call, and the physician was paid in part in white cloth valued at \$1 a yard. In the same settlement, \$4 was allowed for a whitewood coffin.

TEMPERANCE HALL

In 1851 the town meeting was held on the upper floor of the new "Temperance Hall," just south of the crossroads in Centerville. The building, erected in 1849, was owned by Eneas Woodin, Jesse M. Mansfield, Joel N. Churchill, and Leverett Candee. The lower story was occupied by the general store of Andrew T. Andrews, who was forbidden by the terms of his lease to sell spirituous liquors, wine, and cider. The hall derived its name from the Sons of Temperance, who met there. Probably many of the citizens objected to holding the town meetings in Goodyear's tavern or in the newer Centerville Hotel. With taverns on two Centerville corners, there was a general feeling on the part of the abstainers, well expressed by an old fellow named Hy Mathews, who was once asked why he was digging at the edge of the road there; he replied, "Im told that Hell is only six inches under the ground in Centerville."

Signing the pledge was required by the Congregational churches of new members in 1848 and Jesse F. Goodyear, the keeper of Centerville's principal tavern, was dropped from the membership of the Mount Carmel Church because he sold spirits.

The wife of the pastor of this church, Mrs. Harriet Hubbell, attracted attention by writing a book, *Shady Side*, published in 1853. According to a local newspaper, "its general style was quite superior, and its descriptions of life in a country parish were drawn with such power as to make it one of the most famous books of its time." The Hubbells lived in the lovely old Miller house on Whitney Avenue in Mount Carmel for a time beginning in 1834.

"THE CHAPEL" IN MOUNT CARMEL

In 1850 David Bradley, ordained a Baptist clergyman in 1828, built a chapel on the turnpike in Mount Carmel opposite the head of the mountain, a little below Tuttle Avenue. Services were very different from those in the other churches, in that there was no reading of Scripture and anyone who wished to speak might do so. The group worshiping there were known as "Comeouters," because they had separated themselves from the Mount Carmel congregation. After David Bradley's death, his son Henry conducted the services, which were frequently interrupted by mischievous boys.

The most vividly remembered leader of this group was Lorenzo Peck, an ardent speaker, universally known as "Hallelujah Peck." He would stop people and earnestly ask them whether they were "saved." Once he boasted of how he had "preached a sermon you could hear up to Hen Tuttle's." After Mr. Peck's death the group disbanded and the building was deserted. It finally collapsed in a heap of old weather-worn timber, which lay untouched for many years.

THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

The story of the first Catholic Church in Hamden draws attention to the background of the Catholic faith in the state of Connecticut. Following the adoption in 1818 of the new Constitution, which guaranteed religious freedom, Catholics felt encouraged to settle in the state. The first resident priest came to Hartford in 1829, and the first church in New Haven was begun in 1834. When Right Reverend Bernard O'Reilly was installed as bishop in 1850, there were only five Catholic churches and seven priests in the state.

Ahead of the influx of more than a million Irish-Catholic emigrants who arrived in America within a few years around 1845 because of the famine in Ireland, a considerable number had come to Hamden in 1825 to work on the canal. The city of New Haven had in 1833 a population of 11,000—of which 9 out of 10 persons were Connecticut Yankees of colonial stock. In 1850 its population of 20,000 was one seventh Irish. A settlement of factory workers grew up in the north end of Hamden. Attendance of these people at the churches of their faith in New Haven was almost as great an inconvenience as it had been to the earliest settlers before the formation of the Congregational churches. Arrangements were made for Father Matthew Hart, then a curate at St. Mary's in New Haven, to come out to Mount Carmel once a month to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice in whatever homes or other buildings were made available. The first of these services was held in September, 1852, at the home of Parsons Ives, across the road from the present rectory.

By 1856, Reverend E. J. O'Brien, the pastor at St. Mary's, felt that the mission was sufficiently large to have quarters of its own; and an old building was purchased of the Axle Company and turned into a chapel. It was later enlarged, and served the congregation for more than thirty years. Masses were said by priests from New Haven, Wallingford, Southington, and Meriden.

When Father Hugh Mallon assumed charge in 1867 in addition to his duties at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Wallingford, there were 225 Catholics in the parish. Thomas Cannon and James McGrail were named trustees, and served with an advisory board composed of John Kenny, Thomas Judge, James Leddy,

Michael Burke, and Daniel Kennedy. Through the untiring efforts of this group, a church was built just south of the makeshift chapel. The cornerstone was laid on October 17, 1889, by Right Reverend L. S. McMahon, D.D., and in 1891 the church was dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Reverend John T. Winters became the first resident pastor, and although he was with his people but four short years, they loved him and appreciated his nearness to them and their spiritual needs while he lived so closely among them.

In a Golden Jubilee historical sermon preached in this church in April, 1941, Father John LaFarge honored the founders of the parish and paid tribute to the church for its contributions to the life of the community throughout its history. He said:

At the celebration of the Jubilee, our first thought is of the opportunity to tell what people have done, during all the years that have passed. Ours today is the fiftieth anniversary of what God has done in the parish of Mt. Carmel; and this in a particular and special sense.

The story of a parish is not the same as the story of an ordinary human organization. Human organizations live by the combined efforts of those who make them up. The State, for instance, is nothing more than the combined efforts of the men and women who compose it. If these men and women are great people, the State itself is great. The history of our country is the history of Americans. But there is nothing in the State, nothing in our country, nothing in any merely human society, outside of what its members have contributed to it. . . .

What we have before us today is the result of the faith of the men and women who have gone before us; some of them who passed out of this life before this Church was ever built. Long before the material foundations of this Church were put in place, its spiritual

foundations were laid by the faith and zeal of the early missionaries in Connecticut.

We recall today with wonder the early days of the Hartford Diocese. We can imagine the discouragements and sufferings of those days, the hostility encountered, and physical and financial hardships.

We recall the tremendous faith of the priest who first offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in this village, Father Mathew Hart, in 1852. There was little to encourage them in the conditions of those times; and they did not undertake to establish a purely human organization. As has done the Church in all times and all circumstances, they relied upon God to do the work and give the increase; their task, like ours, was simply to share in God's work, to cooperate with it as far as humanly possible, but leave the results to Him.

We may forget with the passage of time. Those of you whose memory reaches back into those earlier days may feel a pang at the thought of how many great souls are forgotten, how many noble deeds are no longer thought of. We ourselves shall pass, and younger generations shall know us merely by a legend. . . .

We today are the heirs of all those innumerable deeds of piety and self sacrifice that were performed through these fifty years. Not a prayer has been said before this altar; not a communion offered; not a sacrifice made for the Church, that has not left its blessing for all time. Today in this celebration, we are reaping the harvest of those long years of piety and patience. . . .

We may ask, Is a celebration like this just a passing event, inspiring and agreeable, or is there some permanent fruit to be derived from it? There are two great fruits that should come from such a celebration. They are unity and peace. These are the two goods for which the world longs at the present moment. They are the two blessings which are denied a tormented, divided and warring humanity. The altar in this Church symbolizes unity; unity with Christ, unity with one another, and with the Church.

Within the walls of this little Church we see the entire Church of God in miniature. We are of different races and different origins, different professions, interests, characteristics. Yet we are all united. . . .

We are united with those we see around us, but we are also united with the generations that have gone before us. They have passed down to us their traditions, which we in turn shall pass on to the generations to come.

The greatest hope, therefore, for the parish of Mount Carmel is that it preserve the spirit of unity in the future, which it has always possessed. . . .

And so our gathering today is in the spirit of peace. Our parish brings peace not only among ourselves but for all the community around. For fifty years this little Church has breathed and radiated peace into the community of Mount Carmel, peace with all, the non-Catholic quite as much as with the Catholic. It has brought a spirit of peace into a community religiously divided, with different groups and races, and yet one with one another in their daily life. Hence, our jubilee is not for ourselves alone, but it is for the entire community a blessing and a pledge of civil peace, of security and of hope.

My concluding words, therefore, are to express a prayer. I do not pray that the work of Christ go on because it will always go on, provided we cooperate; but I pray that we shall cooperate in the future as we have in the past; and I pray that the spirit of unity and of peace which has characterized it in former years will continue for all generations to come, until it is merged with the unity and peace of Heaven.

CHANGED WAYS OF LIVING

In some respects living conditions were still primitive. Candles were used for lighting, as kerosene had not come into general use. But the legal ban on playing

cards was ended in 1848, the telegraph came the next year, the parlor melodeon made for more sociability, and the paving of streets and roads, following Blake's invention of the stone crusher, made travel much more attractive. When the railroad was completed to Plainville, local people were granted a free ride over the whole distance.

The year 1850 was for Connecticut a turning point in economic progress. Migration from the state into the West was markedly lessened, and emigrants from abroad began to come in considerable numbers, and for the first time the growth in population approximated that of other states.

The churches were giving special attention to Sunday School activities, and the social as well as the religious life of the child was deemed a matter which the church should sponsor. The following notice appeared in a New Haven newspaper, June 4, 1859:

SABBATH SCHOOL CELEBRATION

JULY 4TH, 1859

The Sabbath Schools of Hamden are making extensive arrangements for an appropriate celebration of the Fourth. The Sabbath Schools and citizens of the following named towns are invited to unite with the people and schools of Hamden in the Celebration: North Haven, Northford, Wallingford, Prospect, Cheshire and Westville.

The exercises of the day will take place in the beautiful grove of S. A. Dickerman, Esq., at Ives Station, commencing at 10 o'clock A.M. A number of the best speakers for such occasions will be present, also a fine Band of Music. Mounted marshals will be in attendance to receive the schools from abroad and conduct them to the grove. Ample arrangements are in progress for supplying all present with suitable refreshments.

So far as known, the Committee have mailed special invitations to the several schools of the towns herein named, but that none may be overlooked this general invitation is given. Officers of schools intending to participate with us are respectfully requested to communicate by mail with either of the undersigned within the next two weeks.

JAMES M. PAINE
WILLIAM C. GOODWIN

The program for the celebration included a prayer, singing, the reading of the Declaration of Independence, and the rendition of *Hail Columbia* by the band.

A Ladies Aid Society was formed in the Hamden Plains Church as early as 1845, and its constitution read:

The first object of this society shall be to carpet and cushion the altar.

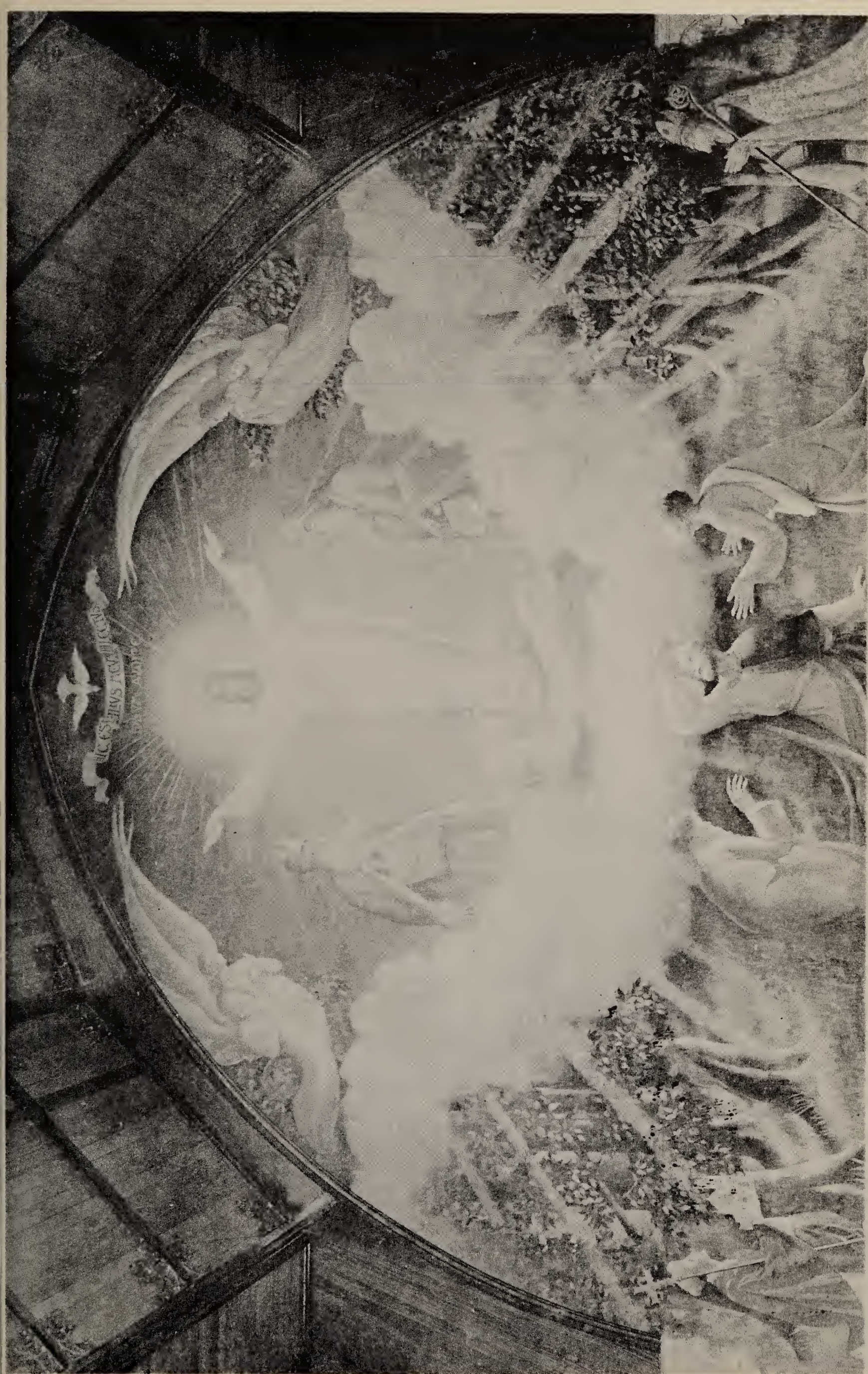
It is considered expedient to restrict the refreshments to bread and butter, cake or pye, one kind of sweet-meats or a substitute of the same, and tea.

In a period when country tables groaned under the weight of bountiful fare, the ladies determined to sternly deny themselves, forbidding the pleasures of the palate to usurp the task in hand.

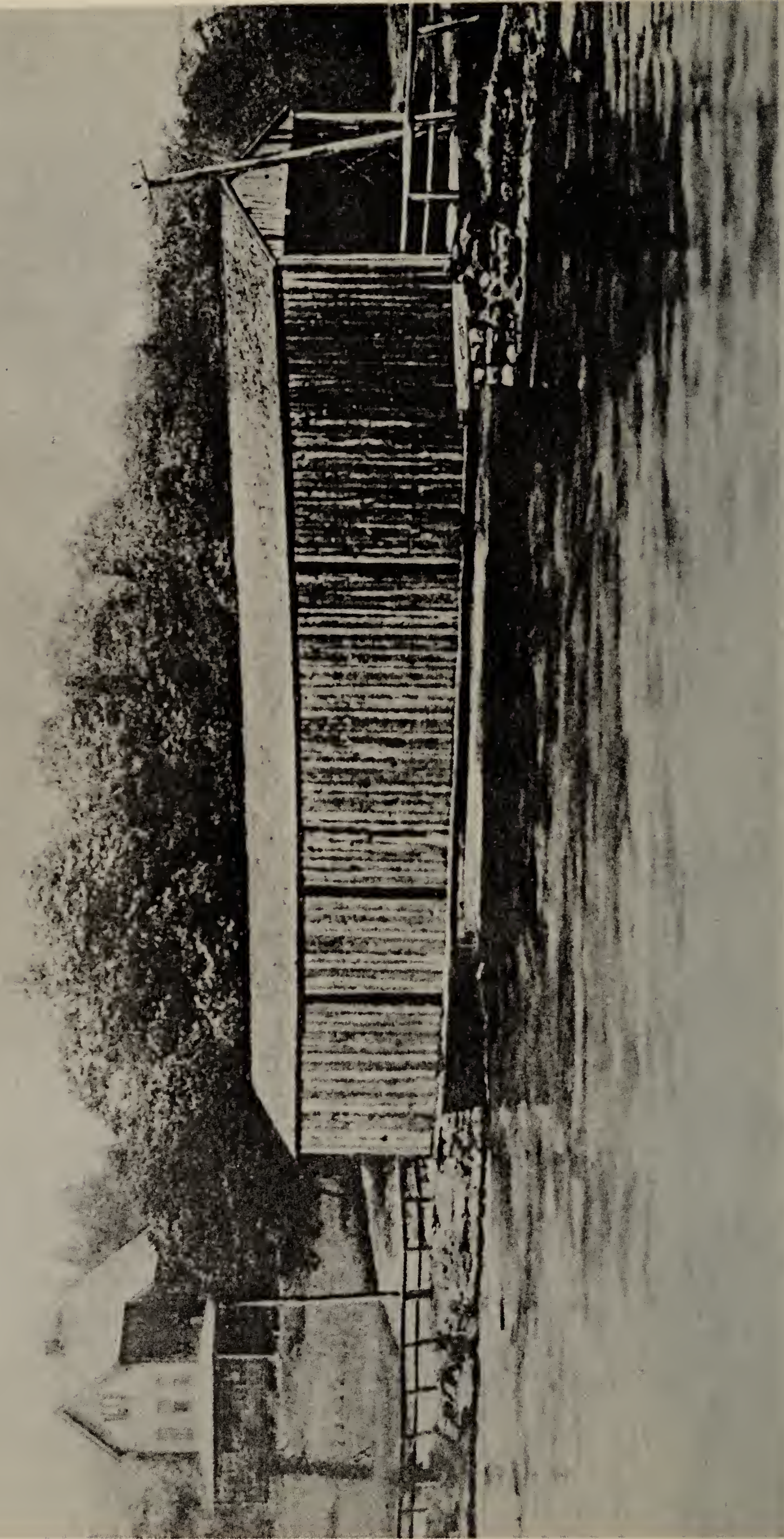
LAKE WHITNEY AND THE WATER COMPANY

The New Haven Water Company was incorporated in 1849, but because the city was unwilling to assume the responsibility of constructing the works, Eli Whitney, 2d, although he strongly believed that supplying the city with water should be a public enterprise, undertook the task as a private venture in 1860.

At the time when his father came to Hamden and established the Armory, the dam was but six feet in height and built of logs. The vibration of the noisy



"The Transfiguration" Painted by Bancel La Farge



Ithiel Town's Covered Bridge at Davis Street

Gift of Arnold G. Dana

waterfall was then so great as to seriously interfere with the delicate processes involved in the manufacture of firearms.

The new dam, erected by Eli Whitney, 2d, was thirty-eight feet high, constructed of planks, concrete, and stone from East and Mill Rocks, and included an apron which flung the waterfall sufficiently beyond the base of the dam to completely eliminate the vibration.

The cost of building the dam, which was five hundred feet long, the reservoir, and eighteen miles of distributing pipe, amounted to \$350,000. The reservoir, extending more than two miles to the north from Mill Rock, contains a minimum of 500,000,000 gallons. Three mills—the paper mill, the clock factory, and Waite's grist mill—were submerged, and twenty other buildings and three bridges had to be moved. Several of the roads were changed.

Engineers advised against removal of Ithiel Town's covered bridge to a point farther up the lake, saying that it was so long and heavy that moving it would be too difficult and expensive. But Mr. Whitney, like his father, had original ideas for many problems which had never before been solved, and the same determination to see a project through in the face of discouragement. He devised chestnut cribs which were built under the bridge, and long sills to lie under the cribs; rollers were placed under the sills, and upon these the bridge was rolled up the road to the new location, where Davis Street now crosses the lake. No harm was done to the bridge, and the cost was only \$250.

Water was pumped into the lake in January, 1861, and into the mains a year later. The New Haven Water Company's plans for the lake had met with determined opposition, and in assigning the charter to Mr. Whitney

the city of New Haven had made it distinctly understood that he was accepting all the loss or possible profit, of the undertaking. Fortunately, in spite of the financial crisis which came soon after the election of President Lincoln, the Armory was so busy making rifles, working day and night, that its earnings were sufficient to finance the construction of the waterworks. Associated with Mr. Whitney in the corporation were Henry Hotchkiss, Ezra Read, O. F. Winchester, James Brewster, E. C. Scranton, and others.

LOUIS KOSSUTH

Mr. Whitney's Armory was one of the principal places visited by the famous Hungarian patriot, Louis Kossuth, when he came to New Haven in 1852. The following description of the visit is given in Henry Peck's *History of the State House, New Haven, Connecticut*:

Thousands of people hastened to the Green to see and hear the famous Hungarian patriot, Kossuth, whose mission to this country in behalf of fallen nobility aroused the sympathies of the entire population of the United States. . . . Hundreds of young men wore on their heads black soft felt hats in the bands of which were stuck a small black feather as worn by the city's guest, and for years this sort of hat went by the name of Kossuth, and was worn by nearly all young men. After finishing his address General Kossuth was received by a committee of the Yale faculty. . . . He was here introduced to some gentlemen of Whitneyville, and left the college grounds to receive a present of rifles from the workmen at the Whitney Arms Factory. On arriving at Whitneyville, a salute was fired from the top of East Rock. On a bridge connecting two buildings of the Whitney manufactory

were ranged in order twenty handsome rifles, the gift of the workmen to Kossuth. Over them was covered a white cloth bordered with evergreens and on it was painted: "Material Aid for Hungary." Eli Whitney showed Kossuth through the factory. In due time the party arrived on the bridge in front of the row of guns. At this point the workmen were each introduced to Kossuth by name, Mr. Whitney being master of ceremonies. Each man shook hands with the Hungarian. Mr. Whitney made a short speech, presenting the guns, and Kossuth in returning thanks remarked that if he had one more opportunity to contend on the field of battle for his beloved country, those arms should be given to chosen men who should be ever near him, and he would not fail to remind them from whom the gift came, and he believed they would not dishonor their cause or the patriotic impulses of the generous men who made the arms and gave them to his country.

A brief story of Louis Kossuth's background is worth recounting, for he was a colorful figure of world importance. Hungary had had a long tradition of government with a representative parliament, but in the sixteenth century it was taken over by the Austrian Hapsburgs, whose domination nevertheless did not entirely suppress their traditional government.

In the widespread European democratic ferment and revolutions against autocratic governments in 1848, the Austrian government began to crumble, and the Hungarian patriots saw an excellent chance to regain all of their ancient independence. The leadership of the movement was taken by Louis Kossuth, a well-educated lawyer and editor of a journal preaching Hungarian nationalism.

Because the Austrian government was occupied on several other endangered fronts, Hungary achieved a large measure of self-government, although it con-

tinued to recognize the Hapsburg sovereign as its king. However, having put down other rebellions, Austria then turned its armies against Hungary. The undaunted Hungarians were holding their own under the leadership of Kossuth, until two events occurred.

Kossuth issued a decree declaring the house of Hapsburg deposed, which gave the Russian Tsar Nicholas a chance to interfere in defense of the principle of monarchy. This brought about the downfall of the Republic of Hungary, and Kossuth, who had been governor from April to August, fled with other revolutionary leaders to Turkey, where he was made a prisoner.

During his stay in Asia he assiduously studied modern languages and acquired fluency in English, French, German, and Italian. Through the influence of England and the United States he was liberated in September, 1851, and embarked on the United States war steamer *Mississippi* which had been sent to convey him from Asia. In England he addressed large audiences in behalf of Hungarian independence, and he came to the United States on a similar tour of principal cities, but he was never given an opportunity thereafter to lead a revolution in Hungary.

A large proportion of the people of the United States manifested in every possible way their sympathy with his misfortunes, although the government did not commit itself to his cause. He continued for several decades to speak and write in behalf of independence, from his home in England.

THE WATER COMPANY AND THE TURNPIKES

Mr. Whitney carried on traditions established by his father, not only in the conduct of the arms business

and the enlargement of its buildings but also in replacing the dying Lombardy poplars which his father had planted in a double row along Whitney Avenue in New Haven, with beautiful elms, many of which are a part of the present arboreal Gothic arch which spans the avenue named for him.

Whitney Avenue north of the Armory was still called the Cheshire Turnpike, and changes in its course were made necessary by the flooding of the lake area. Largely through the tact and wisdom of Charles Brockett of Mount Carmel, who was first selectman in the difficult period of 1859-61, the town adjusted its difficulties with the Water Company without litigation. These difficulties were the basis for the call for a town meeting in 1860, which read:

Whereas, the New Haven Water Company proposes obstructing, changing and discontinuing certain highways and bridges, . . . a town meeting is called for the purpose of passing such vote as is necessary for the protection of the town's interests.

The meeting then adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, that our representative in the legislature be instructed to use his influence *by vote and otherwise* toward the passage of a certain petition in reference to the New Haven Water Company's proposed changes, . . . and further he be instructed to use *all honorable means* toward securing the location of the main road leading from Centerville to New Haven which is proposed to be changed by the Water Company, on the west side of the pond, crossing at or near the Red Bank, where a large majority of the citizens desire to have it located.

Whatever influence was used in this regard by representative James M. Ford—(whether, as instructed, “by vote and otherwise,” or by “honorable means”!) was

successful; inasmuch as the bridge which carried the road over the lake was built a short distance above Red Bank, where at the junction of Waite and Ford Streets the old turnpike used to come out, after crossing through the present bed of the lake from a point east of the Whitneyville Church. Depressions of the old road can still be seen there.

In 1869 the dam was raised again, increasing the capacity of the lake by 59,000,000 gallons. Another accomplishment of Selectman Brockett was the establishment with North Haven of the town boundary line which runs in the center of the turnpike, south from the Centerville bridge to a line through the former James J. Webb farm.

THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War found Connecticut full of patriotism, and a regiment of volunteers materialized in four days. When a draft was put into effect in 1862, Hamden was called upon for 36 men. In that year, a town meeting held in George W. Chatfield's hall, formerly Temperance Hall, for the purpose of enlisting men "to assist in putting down the present rebellion," voted "that a bounty of \$100 be paid out of the treasury to each volunteer residing in this town who enlists under the call before the Government makes a draft, paid to him when he is sworn in." The *Catalogue of Connecticut Volunteers* published by the State credits the town with 264 men in the service, but some of this number were not residents—they had been attracted here by the bounty offer.

A man who was drafted had the privilege of hiring a substitute, but by 1863 there were many Hamden men

who could not afford this, and whose absence would throw the support of their dependents upon the town. Accordingly, in another town meeting it was voted that whereas "many inhabitants have been drafted, whose labors are required for the support of their families and others dependent upon them, and whereby the town is exposed to charge on that account, that some cannot pay the United States for procuring a substitute, \$300 from the town treasury may be allowed each of them, to relieve them from duty and provide a substitute."

There were three drafts in all. In 1864 the town appropriated the sum of \$5,000 "to defray expenses of supplying and filling its deficiency of the town quota under the last call of the President of the United States for 500,000 men."

Hamden men were engaged in almost all of the principal military operations of the war. They were in the Army of the Potomac from Bull Run to Appomattox; in North Carolina under Burnside, and among the first to tread the soil of South Carolina. They were in the Army of the Gulf, at Chattanooga, and they marched through Georgia to the sea. Twenty-seven of them gave their lives for their country:

Ed H. Tyler, Co. K, 1st Cavalry, Conn. Volunteers
Charles Johnson, Co. C, 1st Artillery
John Sullivan, Co. E, Ninth C. V.
James Griffin, Co. A, Tenth C. V.
George Masse, Co. B, Eleventh C. V.
James Messin, Co. D, Eleventh C. V.
Joseph Wood, Co. E, Eleventh C. V.
Adolph Pierre, Co. K, Eleventh C. V.
Robert Handley, Co. K, Eleventh C. V.
Pedro Bozart, Co. E, Fifteenth C. V.
x Joel Dickerman, Co. I, Twentieth C. V.

Bernard Mulvey, Co. I, Twentieth C. V.
 x Curtis Tuttle, Co. I, Twentieth C. V.
 Louis Danner, Co. K, Twentieth C. V.
 x Lorenzo Goodyear, Co. I, 24th C. V.
 Lyman Goodyear, Co. I, 24th C. V.
 Gardner Goodyear, Co. I, 24th C. V.
 x Edgar D. Ives, Co. I, 24th C. V.
 x Andrew Peck, Co. I, 24th C. V.
 Julius Curtis, Co. I, 24th C. V.
 x Hobart Wooding, Co. I, 24th C. V.
 x Marshall Gaylord, Co. I, 24th C. V.
 Harvey Merriman, Co. I, 24th C. V.
 Horace Pierpont, Co. I, 24th C. V.
 John Williams, Co. B, 29th C. V.
 Henry Williams, Co. H, 29th C. V.
 Henry Campner, Co. F, 29th C. V.

Almost half of the number were from I Company of the Twenty-fourth Regiment, which was officered entirely by Hamden men:

Capt. Alonzo Babbett
 x 1st Lieut. Jesse B. Gilbert
 2nd Lieut. Lucerne Goodyear
 Sergrts. x Wallace Warner, Charles Allen, Lyman Goodyear, Albert Candee, Hobart Wooding.
 Corporals, George Harlow, Lyman Warner, Albert Ives, Edwin Whiting, x Noah Alling, Edgar Ives, Andrew Peck, John Murphy.
 Musicians, x Ansel Doolittle, Jerome Payne.

In these lists will be noted almost a dozen of the family names which have been prominent throughout Hamden history—names which will not die, for their achievements, like those of the great men of all ages, have the significance which survives the test of time. Their line of living men has run through our civic life for

generations, becoming an integral part of it, and whether in their living deeds or in the memory of them after death, the town has become a part of what they were.

The bearer of one such well-known name, Benjamin Pardee, went to war as captain of Company A, and in a short time was promoted to lieutenant colonel. Benjamin Jepson, later professor of music in the New Haven public schools, was Captain Pardee's first lieutenant. In the spring of 1862, a provost marshal's office was established in each county of the state, and Colonel Pardee held the office for New Haven County.

Captain Samuel Craft, a prominent brickmaker on State Street, enlisted in the Navy early in the war, and for a while commanded a vessel in the blockade; but he was eager to see more action than was offered in this assignment, and succeeded in obtaining command of Admiral Porter's dispatch boat, which bore the melodious name *Aida*. Captain Craft's duties carried him into responsible and dangerous work in the North Atlantic squadron, chiefly at the taking of Fort Fisher, at Wilmington, North Carolina, for which he was honored by citation.

The war gave women new opportunities for service to the men in the field. Up to that time all war nursing and cooking had been done by men. But Clara Barton broke down the barriers of precedent and of violent official opposition, enlisting the services of women to nurse on Southern battlefields. Her action inspired countless other women to volunteer their services. Two of these women were from Hamden—Sylvia Doolittle and her adopted daughter, Sarah Chadwick, whose home was in Mount Carmel. Indignant objection to their going was voiced by many of the townspeople, yet

these courageous women served as nurses till the end of the war. Mrs. Chadwick was married four times, and her respective husbands were named Warner, Stevens, who died in service in the Civil War, Meacham, and Chadwick.

Ezra Dickerman of Mount Carmel, brother of the sisters who conducted the Seminary, enlisted in the Tenth Connecticut Regiment, and when he had been in service a year, his brother Edward organized a company in the Twentieth Regiment made up largely of their friends and neighbors, who chose Ezra as their captain. This company called itself the "Whitney Rifles," and Eli Whitney, 2d, acknowledged the honor done him in the choice of his name, by presenting the group with one hundred revolvers valued at \$1,200. In his address of presentation he said:

Gentlemen of the Whitney Rifles: It gives me much pleasure to meet you on this occasion and to thank you for the compliment you have paid me in naming your company the Whitney Rifles. I shall watch your progress with interest wherever your field of operations may be; and having a captain of such known and tried courage, possessing your confidence and respect, I doubt not you will give a good account of yourselves when you meet the enemy, and that your company will be noted for its valor, daring and success throughout the war. You have a great destiny to achieve, a great and good cause to fight for. You are struggling to sustain the best government on which the sun ever shone, the best ever granted by God to man. May God have each one of you in His holy keeping, whether you are destined to survive or perish in this great and irrepressible conflict. May you ever bear in mind the righteousness and justice of your cause, and that you are fighting for the nobility of labor and for civil liberty.

To these words of Mr. Whitney, Captain Dickerman responded as follows:

In behalf of the Whitney Rifles, I sincerely thank you for the beautiful gift which you have presented us, a gift which we prize for its intrinsic value, but far more for the good wishes which attend it. In seeking a name for this Company, we have found none under which we can more enthusiastically contend for the holy cause in which we are enlisted, than that which you bear—a name not only associated with the interests of, and honored by the town of Hamden and the County of New Haven, but the State and the whole Nation, and let me pledge our honor that no one of us will prove unworthy of the name which we bear. Sir, I do not lead forth these men to the conflict trusting in my own strength but in the Lord of Hosts, believing that He will watch over and protect us in the hour of danger, and enable us to perform our duty with credit to ourselves and our country, and add another star to the wreath of laurels that have already been bestowed upon the name of Whitney.

In earlier years, Captain Dickerman had interested himself in the establishment of the Sunday Schools in West Woods and at Quinnipiac, and naturally he would recall the words of the familiar psalm, "Who is this King of Glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. . . . The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory."

Ezra was with the Twentieth Regiment guarding communications for the Army of Cumberland when it was hard-pressed at Chattanooga. He was at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, and marched with Sherman to Atlanta. When Cassville was captured by the Twentieth Connecticut and the Nineteenth Michigan Regiments alone, the colonel praised Ezra for

“promptness and good conduct” in this action. At Peach Tree Creek, where Sherman lost 4,000 men and the Confederates 8,000, the Twentieth was in the front line and repelled many furious attacks, standing four hours in an open field during obstinate battle, and Captain Ezra was among the wounded there.

If those who gave their lives could have chosen an epitaph best suited to their thoughts, it might well have been, *Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*, “It is sweet and good to die for one’s country.” Julia Ward Howe in the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* spoke the words that lay in every Northern soldier’s heart:

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never
call retreat,
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
Oh be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant,
my feet!
Our God is marching on!

MANUFACTURING AT MOUNT CARMEL

JAMES IVES

The railroad to Northampton was an enormous encouragement to manufacturing in Hamden, and two flag stations were maintained in Mount Carmel and one in Centerville (near the present junction of old Dixwell Avenue and Evergreen Avenue). Passengers and freight were accommodated, the freight including raw material for the factories and the finished goods ready for market.

James Ives, who had early begun his manufacturing career in the founding of the Brass Works, was concerned in a leading capacity in a number of subsequent industries in Mount Carmel. In 1855 the Brass Works

became the Ives, Pardee Manufacturing Company, with Mr. Ives the president and Benjamin Pardee secretary and treasurer. They took over a small defunct malleable iron works, located near them on the river. They had a capital of \$50,000, and with their first year's profit of 20 per cent, they erected a brass foundry 100 feet long, containing 12 furnaces. This company had a short-lived prosperity, due, as Blake says in his history, to the discovery that "while rich bankers and merchants had money, they also had friends who wanted office [in the company]. The result was that the friends got the offices, while their supporters and all other stockholders lost their money, and after five years of folly, the bankrupt estate paid 3c. on a dollar."

James Ives bought up the company, and with Joseph Granniss established a new firm, Ives and Granniss. They made an agreement never to give a business note, and after nine years of careful and conscientious work were justifiably proud of a sound and reputable business. An outstanding characteristic of their company, attributed also to all the Mount Carmel industries of that period, was that "no drummers have ever been employed to travel and sell the goods produced, and very rarely an advertisement has been published in the papers." When the company was reorganized as the Ives and Woodruff Company, the books showed that in the nine years of Ives and Granniss, less than \$200 had been expended for travel, and not a cent for advertising; yet the names of customers of thirty years' continuous patronage were on the records.

Mr. Ives and Joseph Granniss were associated together in the formation of the "Mount Carmel Savings Bank & Building Association" in 1850. Their bank business matters were carried on in the Seminary build-

ing on the hill, which became James Ives's residence after the early death of the Dickerman sisters. Mr. Granniss' daughter inherited the house on the corner of Woodruff Street and Whitney Avenue from her father, who had acquired it through a foreclosure of the bank. In clearing up a mortgage in 1877 Mr. Granniss described himself as "the last treasurer" of the bank.

Mr. Ives was able to interest himself in more than one business at a time. In 1853 he was associated in the Mount Carmel Screw Works with Mr. E. S. Pierce, who was the inventor of a superior wooden screw. He rented his Ivesville general store in 1857 to Almon Warner, with the stipulation that no drinks were to be sold except "small beer, soda, ginger pop or lemonade." Also, no lights were to be used "to endanger the insurance on the store"—probably indicating a distrust of kerosene. Mr. Warner could also use the hay scales and half the icehouse, provided he did half the work in filling it.

After the death of Henry Ives, the Mount Carmel Axle Works became Frederick Ives and Company, enjoying success during the Civil War. Then Willis E. Miller, whose father had been a mechanic in Charles Brockett's carriage spring factory, became a partner and the firm name became Ives and Miller.

The strong sense of individual responsibility for the worth and dependability of the finished product after it is in use, which is characteristic of a proud and independent artisan, is shown by James Ives in his description of the Axle Works. In referring to his nephew Frederick, he said:

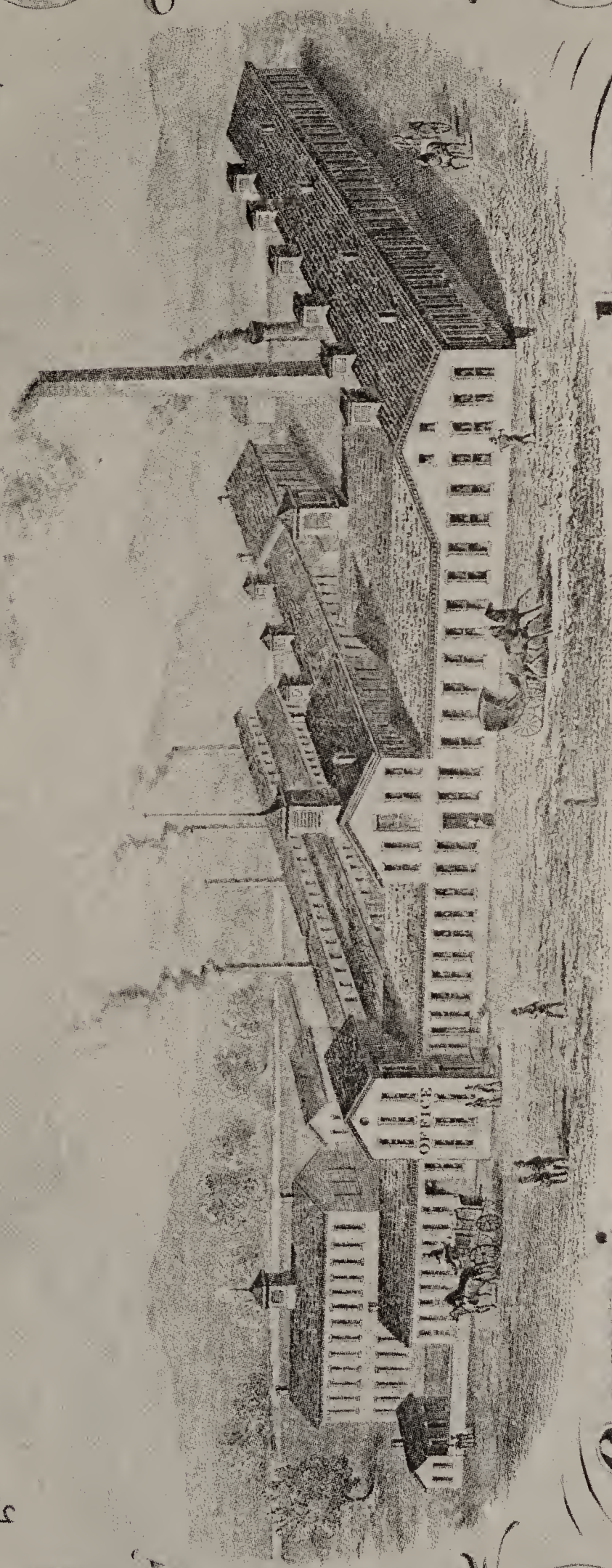
While reticent in business transactions and disposed to retirement, his superior judgement and watchful care

Ives & Grannis,
MANUFACTURERS OF

ESTABLISHED

1835

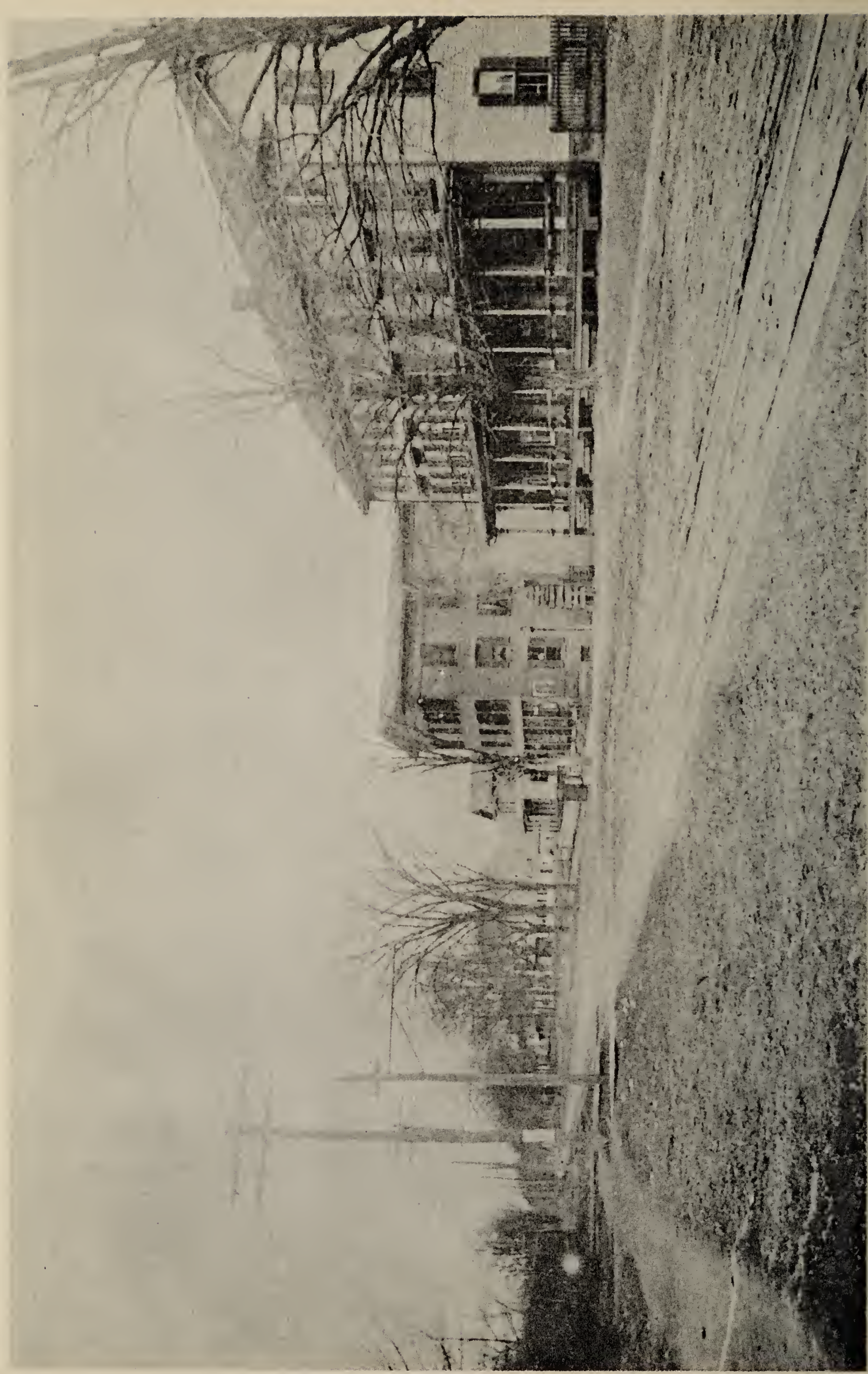
Connecticut.



Mount Carmel

Carrriage AND Harness Hardware

SADDLERY GOODS & MALLEABLE
IRON CASTINGS.



The Mount Carmel Post Office, Ivesville, James Ives's Store on Opposite Corner

Gift of Arnold G. Dana

were ever manifest in the essentials of a business where life and limb are dependent upon the quality of material and workmanship. And just here, reader, consider the responsibility of the axle maker, whose every day and hour's work is to stand the wrack and wrench of careless driving with the loads of precious life over rough country roads or worse city streets with stone pavements, iron rails, and switches so laid that for axle breakers, human skill would fail to excel them.

WILLIS E. MILLER

Willis E. Miller was a typical self-made man. All the schooling he ever had was received in the one-room first schoolhouse in Mount Carmel. Upon leaving there at the age of ten, he was employed by a butcher in Pierpont's market in New Haven. As a very young man he was employed in the Axle Works, where he invented a patented axle bearing his name. In time he became the head of the Axle Company, and also a substantial and important citizen of the town. He lived in the Nathaniel Sherman house south of the Mount Carmel Church for eight years, and for a few years he lived in New Haven, commuting back and forth to the Axle Works by train, but the beautiful old Miller homestead on Whitney Avenue was the place most closely associated with him.

Many Hamden people came to him for advice about the settlement of estates, a field in which he had a great deal of experience. He made it a rule, from a high sense of duty, to accept the position of administrator or guardian whenever he was asked to do so. When his nephew was about to decline, on the grounds of inexperience, an appointment as conservator, Mr. Miller

persuaded him to accept the trust, saying, "You take the job, and I will keep the record."

Willis Miller was serious, dignified, thorough, public-spirited, and noted for his exact punctuality which he also expected of others. When he died at the age of sixty-three, he was a director or adviser for thirty-two different enterprises. He had been head of the Henry Hooker Carriage Company, an organizer and officer of the Hygeia Ice Company, president of the Woodruff Shop in Mount Carmel, the Mount Carmel Bolt Company, and the New Haven *Palladium* newspaper, a director in the City Bank, and a trustee of the New Haven Savings Bank.

PLANTING MACHINES AND HARROWS

D. W. Shares, a practical farmer of Hamden, invented in 1857 several labor-saving tools for hoeing and planting. These were patented and took prizes at state and county fairs. When their manufacture made them available to farmers everywhere, Mr. Shares asserted that he had invented them for his own use, but that after discovering their value he desired others to share in their benefits, "for the purpose of doing good and making money." This combination of altruism and a desire for profit was both frank and Yankee. He added that he had raised potatoes with the use of these tools, in weedy soil, without using the common hoe at all, and only a day's hoeing to the acre was necessary. He tritely warned the farmers that "this implement, like a plow or any other tool, works much the best when kept clean and bright; and any farmers who are in the habit of leaving their tools for days and weeks in succession by the sides of their fields exposed to heat and

storms, to rot and rust, are advised not to buy any of these implements, or any other of any practical value, except a spade or hoe."

NEW BUSINESSES

Centerville had several obscure businesses, one of which was indicated by William Hill's deeding as security for a loan to Andrew T. Andrews (proprietor at Temperance Hall) a match machine and frames "used by me in my factory in said Town of Hamden, for the purpose of making friction matches."

A similar paper, made out in 1855, shows Joseph Bromley to have been owner of a stone-dressing machine.

BEERS'S FLOUR MILL

On Mill River in Centerville, directly north of the Candee factory, Philos Beers in 1860 acquired the site of a little-known business of making wooden knobs, which had been conducted by a Mr. Hart. Under the firm name of Beers and Fenn, he manufactured wheels and spokes for a very short time, and when the building burned he built a grist and flour mill for grinding flour, feed, bones, and plaster. The place later was owned by Andrew J. Doolittle, and then by Ira Beers, the son of Philos.

PRUNING SHEARS

In a small brick building beside the Beers mill, John T. Henry began in 1859 to make pruning shears, sheep shears, and garden implements. The manufacture of pruning shears was suggested to him by Reverend

Charles W. Everest, the rector of Grace Church and founder of the Rectory School, who came to him with a bleeding finger which he had injured in using an ordinary pair of shears. "John," said the rector, "I think you could make a better pair." Mr. Henry took the suggestion and successfully invented an implement which featured a movable curved blade cutting against a curved jaw. He erected a better building when his business expanded, and he sold his shears in South America and in Europe, as well as in the South where they were extensively used by orange growers. Mr. Henry's son Rene joined him in the business, and conducted it after his death.

SHARES BRICKS

When Horace P. Shares began his own brick business on State Street in 1856, he made 1,000,000 bricks a year. Before that time, he had been in charge of the Warner, Mansfield, and Stiles Brick Company in North Haven. Prospecting in the Quinnipiac Valley in search of a superior quality of clay, he found it in almost inexhaustible quantities. Mr. Shares was the son-in-law of Alfred Ives, whose son Loyal became a partner in the business. Brick manufacture has been a success in this locality for generations, and the name of Shares is still always associated with it.

WEBBING

In 1863, Leverett Candee removed his rubber manufacture business to New Haven, and leased the Hamden factory to Bela Mann, Ward Coe, and Joseph Leavenworth, for the New Haven Web Company. In a few

years this company bought the factory, and following a disastrous fire, rebuilt it in brick. Using rubber thread, cotton yarns, and silk floss, they made elastic and non-elastic webbing, such as is used for suspenders, braid, and women's underwear. Starting with a single loom and a capital stock of \$25,000, the plant soon had over 100 looms and capital of \$60,000.

NEEDLES

Andrew H. Smith, who had made needles at Prospect, came to Hamden in 1864. With his brothers, Ira and Julius, who had been associated with Joseph Granniss at Mount Carmel in making small carriage malleable parts, he began the local manufacture of needles in a building across Mill River from the Ives and Granniss Brass Works, and continued the business there for twenty-one years. Another small needle factory was later set up in Centerville, near the Beers mill.

ICE

Samuel Perry and the Townshend brothers began in 1865 to harvest and store ice from Lake Whitney, a short distance above the dam and north of William Day's boathouses. When the icehouses burned, their business was moved up the lake, almost to the covered bridge on Davis Street. Starting with a capital of \$7,500 and a 500-ton annual cutting of ice, their business grew in size and profit for many years. Every winter, when the ice was thick enough, teams of horses were driven up and down and back and forth on its surface, pulling the ice cutters that marked off the huge dominoes which were later guided by the workmen into the open water

that ran like a long black ribbon to the houses, where they were drawn in and stored in sawdust for use through the summer.

Norris Mix purchased a farm at the corner of Dixwell and Shepard Avenues in 1863, and for many years conducted an ice business from what is now known as Mix's Pond. Mr. Mix was first selectman of the town in 1865 and 1866, and again from 1876 to 1879. Samuel Flight sold ice from his pond in Dunbar, and other familiar names connected with selling ice in subsequent years were O'Connell, Sanford, Neal, and Nolan.

BELLS

In 1867, R. S. Clark and H. D. Smith began in Hamden the manufacture of sleigh bells and other small bells, for clocks, doors, and schools. Space was at first rented in the factory of Ives and Granniss, but later, under Mr. Clark's sole ownership, the business was conducted farther north, at what is now known as Clark's Pond.

AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN

Town affairs were beginning to take a more businesslike form, evidence of which could be seen in all departments.

The roads were maintained by men working out their taxes at the rate of \$1 a day, and \$2 for a man and team. Twice a year the selectmen settled with them, and if the labor was not considered satisfactory it need not be accepted as the equivalent of taxes, according to a town vote in 1856. Dixwell Avenue was surveyed from New Haven line to Shepherd's Brook,

and stone bounds put at suitable distances in the manner used in New Haven.

The collection of the town taxes was assigned each year to the man submitting the lowest bid, the amount paid was usually between \$50 and \$80. A town meeting in 1857 voted "to tax ourselves $2\frac{1}{4}$ c. on the dollar for the purpose of paying the county tax laid for the purpose of building a new jail."

An adjourned town meeting in 1866 voted that the selectmen cause to be put up guideposts at the following places, viz.:

Near Merrit Todd's house,	pointing to	New Haven.
" Chauncey Ives' "	" "	Bethany.
" James Ives' store,	" "	North Haven.
" Hobart Kimberly's store,	" "	Quinnipiac.
" Charles Brockett's,	" "	Wallingford.
" Railroad crossing by Jeremiah Leek's	" "	Centerville.

A decided advance from the lax bookkeeping methods of the earlier days was made in the town meeting of 1868. The selectmen were "authorized and directed to procure a set of books to keep an account of their transactions in, and to keep an account of their doings therein, open to the inspection of the public." Vouchers were to be used for expenditures, and the town farm was also to keep record books. "The auditors of town accounts," it was added, "are appointed in the expectation that they will perform their duties, and that office was not created solely as an office of honor, or as a sinecure, or a burlesque." All town officers were hereafter to be elected by ballot.

The same town meeting voted to offer a bounty of \$100 for the arrest and conviction of the person who had set Charles Mix's barn on fire, New Year's Eve

of 1863. Another \$25 was offered for the apprehension of chicken thieves, and \$50 for the arrest and conviction of one who had entered William Potter's house and stolen his clothes.

The people of Hamden would take up the matter of school laws when—and not until—they were ready to do it, as the following town meeting vote indicated:

Voted that this meeting so far as the taking action on the Union School Law passed at the last session of the legislature is concerned, be adjourned without day.

During the years of the Civil War and after, a group of young men calling themselves the Sons of Freedom, held regular meetings in the same building where town meetings were held—upstairs in Chatfield's Hall. This group was presented by Congressman Woodruff who represented this district at the time, with an American flag, its stars arranged in a circle. The flag was draped at the deaths of Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley. In recent years, Minotte Chatfield gave this heirloom to the American Legion Post No. 88 of Hamden.

OMNIBUS TRAVEL IN THE SIXTIES

Omnibus service between Whitneyville and New Haven during the Civil War was provided by E. W. Rogers, whose conveyance left the Chapel Street depot seven times a day between 6 A.M. and 8 P.M. On the return trips, the omnibus left the Whitney Armory beginning at 7.50 A.M. Two trips a day were made by the Centerville line, managed successively by Hale and Allen, Bradley, Bailey, and Eneas Warner.

Reverend Joseph Brewster, rector for a short time of Grace Episcopal Church, lived at Spruce Bank. One

morning he complained to 'Neas Warner that the bus was late. 'Neas, who had great respect for the rector, replied, "I'll get you to New Haven on time if I kill the horses." He deposited a bruised and shaken pastor at his destination on time, but the passenger obviously felt that the physical cost had been too great! Reverend Mr. Brewster bought the farm at Spruce Bank which he renamed "Edgehill" in 1865, during his thirty-year pastorate at Christ Church, New Haven, at the end of which he rendered his service to Grace Church. He always delighted in the beautiful view of the near-by mountain head, and the quiet waters of Carmel Lake at the edge of his property. Three of his sons followed him in the Episcopal ministry: Right Reverend Chauncey B. Brewster, Bishop of Connecticut, Reverend Benjamin Brewster, who was at the time of his death Bishop of Maine; and Reverend William Brewster of Northford, Connecticut.

THE HAMDEN FAIR

In 1862 Hamden held her own agricultural fair, chiefly memorable on account of an enormous pumpkin which weighed 280 pounds. The vine on which it grew yielded 1,200 pounds of pumpkins. This giant specimen was taken to New York—though not as a Cinderella coach, which it might well have been! and there it won another well-deserved prize.

In that year the New Haven County Agricultural fair was held at Hamilton Park, and one of the chief attractions was Blake's stone crusher which, according to the newspaper account in the New Haven *Palladium*, "has a six-horse-power engine, and can munch up 150 horse loads of stone in a day." Julius Gorham won a

prize there for plowing an eighth of an acre in sixteen minutes.

FAIR AT CENTERVILLE TROTting PARK

The next year the *Palladium* reported in detail the "Centerville Fair held on October 14 and 15, 1863, by the Hamden Agricultural and Horticultural Society."

On the first day 2,500 were in attendance. There was a procession a half-mile long, composed of yoked cattle and decorated wagons. There were sixteen entries of cows. J. J. Webb exhibited a bull, "Empire State," weighing 2,000 pounds. The exhibits of fowls, swine, and sheep attracted attention; also mowers, horse rakes, and corn shellers. Enos Bassett exhibited doves, especially those with ruffled necks; Jared Atwater, forty varieties of apples; A. C. Doolittle, a pumpkin weighing almost 125 pounds; there were mammoth watermelons, and Samuel Hickocks displayed large white turnips. Jabez Potter showed sweet potatoes, and sugar cane stalks 14 feet high; Jared Atwater had dahlias 14 feet high. Home-made grape wine and sugar-cane sirup were also on hand. John Osborn showed his patented fruit cans. Birdsey Bradley displayed the pelt of a Rocky Mountain wolf, and two pelts of prairie wolves; Howard Sherman had a teakwood table from Burma, and T. Bassett a blanket "said to be two hundred years old."

The Cheshire Band furnished music and the cadets of the Rectory School, under the direction of their "usher" Mr. Fowler, held a drill.

The event was held on the grounds now occupied by the Masonic Temple on the east side of Whitney Av-

enue. Charles Dickerman (who succeeded Jesse Good-year as operator of the old Centerville House) leased the grounds from Elias Ford, and then subleased it to himself, William D. Hall, and Orrin Dickerman for a half-mile trotting course.

This was a period in which horses were of paramount practical value, and they were also the chief interest of many men as an exciting pastime.

The equine events of the fair included a race for "lady riders," in which the entries were Sarah Pardee, Ellen Bradley, Hattie Collett, Ellen Hinman, Nellie Bradley, Ellen Leek, and Mrs. Nellie Hall. Each rider was given a dollar prize, and a box of blacking was awarded to Miss Pardee as the best rider. Elias Dickerman had the best roadster; Ellsworth Bradley, the best stallion; Henry Todd, the best mare; J. A. Gorham, the best family horse; and George Bradley, the best matched horses.

Although it was an agricultural exhibit, the horses attracted a large share of the attention. Mr. N. D. Sperry's "turn-out" from New Haven, a pair of blacks with "good step and carriage" (referring to the horses and not the vehicle) was much admired. There was a five-mile race, trotting, and an auction sale at the end. The track was "extemporized for the occasion, but was nevertheless good."

1864 FAIR

On the strength of the overwhelming success of the fair of 1863, the track was put in better condition for the following year, when the five-mile trot was won by C. Pickett's "Kitty" in 16.01, and the mile by Charles

Dickerman's "Billy" in 2.53. A prize of \$20 was awarded for the best roadster.

The Tenth School District entered a wagon drawn by seventeen pair of oxen, loaded with flowers and fruit and decorated with flags and ribbons. North Haven sponsored a wagon with eighteen pair of oxen. Teams and box wagons were in attendance from New Haven, North Haven, Woodbridge, and other towns.

James J. Webb showed forty cows, six of them thoroughbred Durham. Elam Dickerman exhibited a pair of fat cattle weighing 4,000 pounds. Someone showed eight cats, each of a different color. Tobacco was a prominent display. Mr. Webb had five acres in cultivation, and had just built a large dryhouse. S. C. Babcock had raised a large crop on a quarter of an acre. William Dickerman's crop that year required the construction of a barn fifty feet long. Charles P. Augur displayed grapes, and other fruits were exhibited by Vinus Wooding and Charles Merriman. Mrs. Augur and Mrs. Hall had exhibits of "hair work" in wreaths and imitation bouquets, such as were framed and used as wall decorations in the fashionable homes of the period.

The exhibits of sorghum were of interest because the war had made sugar expensive. The cider mill at Centerville, close to Mix's Pond, had just been turned into a sorghum mill, and proved a great convenience to the community.

Stirring music was furnished by the Centerville Band. A special stage to the fair was driven from the New Haven depot.

The success of the Hamden fairs indicated an active interest in the improvement of livestock and of vegetables and fruits. The value of horses was increasing. In



The Centerville Web Shop, Where Goodyear Shoes Were First Made



Kimberly Store and Lower Axle Works

1844 there were 197 horses in the town, assessed at an average value of \$30.68 each; and by 1885, 606 horses were valued at nearly \$60 each.

Although women had participated as horseback riders in the fairs, there were many of the gentler sex who were obliged from necessity to "hitch up" the family horse who nevertheless did not feel at home with horses. Mrs. Philos Dickerman of Mount Carmel, in company with a friend, had to drive a new and mettlesome horse which her husband had just bought, and put him in the barn for the first time after dark. The friend said, "Aren't you afraid?" She replied, with true New England spirit, "I don't know whether I'm afraid or not; I only know that it has to be done."

Seymour Dickerman was a great horse lover, and much admiring comment was made in 1850 on the beautiful pair of spirited sorrels that he drove briskly up the north slope of the Sleeping Giant.

"THE SLEEPING GIANT" IN A POEM

Charles Merriman, who exhibited fruit at the Hamden fair in 1864, wrote a poem of sixty-four verses, entitled *The Legend of the Sleeping Giant*, which was printed in a stiff brown cover. Selected lines from the opus are these:

The ride was long, but autumn's russet tinges
Were on the hills, and in the valleys spread,
Wild asters lined the road with purple fringes,
And stocks of corn suggested winter bread.

Then up above Mount Carmel's towering crest,
We saw the autumn foliage and the pines,
And far away upon the Giant's breast,
We studied out his form in curving lines.

A Sleeping Giant! lying there in state,
His head is pillowed on a running stream,
And laves his temples, while night's shadows wait,
But noon still finds him in his quiet dream.

His dream must be of trees and sun and water,
Which rest forever on his upturned face,
Or of the raincloud when its brilliant daughter
Curves her bright bow above his resting place.

Above his quiet form the lightning flashes,
And robes him for an instant in its glare,
Ere the hoarse thunder, with its startling crashes,
Rebounds in echoes on his forehead bare.

.

Leagues off the contour of his massive head,
Stands boldly out against the azure sky.
He lies serenely in his rock-bound bed,
While rippling streamlets pass him swiftly by.

And when the atmosphere is calm and still,
His form is covered with a robe of blue,

.

The Giant's form is in the far horizon,
Touching its dark blue to the light blue sky,
While fancy pictures out the bed he lies on,
Where rushing streamlets pass unheeding by.

Spread out before the eye a scene elysian
Lies all before you in its calm repose.

.

The Giant seems a barrier in the valley,
Turning the roadways past his head and feet.

.

He takes no heed of any life around him,
Cloud shadows flit above him as he lies.

.

And then perchance will come a youth and maiden,
Or troops of them while merry voices ring,
Shouting and laughing while their arms are laden
With the first blossoms of the early spring.

He lies there like a knight encased in armor,
And resting on the laurels he has won.

.
As we approach him, all his robe of azure
Slowly dissolves, and mingles with the air;

.
Through all the wild scenes of his deep seclusion
And changing shadows of his dim retreat,
My fancy, with a touch of strange delusion,
Would bring him quickly on his Giant feet.

The Whitneyville Church built a \$10,000 addition in 1866. Reverend Austin Putnam was a leader in the community as well as in the church, and so much a patriarch that many affectionately called him "Father Putnam." His doctrines were accepted faithfully by his followers, and he himself was so sure that his was the only right way that he often prayed, "Forgive our enemies and lead them to see the right."

The Mount Carmel Church, too, was remodeled soon after this, at a cost of \$2,000, and a \$1,200 pipe organ was installed. Throughout the years the church had provided whatever musical instruments were in current use for the accompaniment of singing, from the fiddle, double- and single-bass viol, and other stringed and wind instruments, to the melodeon, cabinet organ, and now a pipe organ.

KIMBERLY'S

The Kimberly store at Mount Carmel, which had been acquired by Ezra Kimberly in 1795, was conducted

in the eighteen twenties by his son Roderick, who was first selectman in 1830. One of his business advertisements in a New Haven newspaper in 1836 announced that he was agent for a popular patent medicine. The third generation to run the store was Hobart Kimberly. Before Hobart's brother Burton departed for California during the gold rush, the brothers, with their father, bought a cargo of coarse salt, which came to them by ship to New Haven and thence to their grist mill via the Northampton Railroad. They ground the salt fine for family use, packaged it in small bags, and marketed it in New Haven. Hobart Kimberly wore a straw hat, linen duster, and carpet slippers summer and winter, and boasted that he had not been out of sight of the store for twenty years. Of him George S. Dickerman said:

I knew the store at the Steps in 1850. Hobart Kimberly was then the storekeeper, and the business seems to have come down to him in continuous succession from the trade started with the building of Munson's mills in 1734. Kimberly's ways were about as primitive as the store. It used to be said that he had not been in New Haven for twenty years. Some farmer from up the road, going to town with his load of produce, would stop at the store and take orders for any stock that might be needed, and on the way back would stop again and leave what had been bought. Kimberly's manner of keeping his accounts was equally simple. If a buyer did not want to pay the cash down, he wrote the customer's name with the amount purchased on a bit of wrapping paper and dropped it into a drawer under the counter. When it came to settling up, the case was not so simple, and the buyer sometimes had trouble in finding out exactly how much he did owe. If a boy came asking for the bill, Kimberly was likely to say, "What's the hurry about it?" and let him go home without any bill.

In spite of this casual bookkeeping, Hobart left an estate of considerable value, which was divided among thirty-three heirs.

Many of Hamden's businessmen were typically shrewd, and the story is told of one who warned his sons when they were old enough to go into business for themselves, "If I make you a present, I give it to you; but if I do business with you, I'll cheat you the same as I would anybody else."

HORSECARS TO CENTERVILLE

The New Haven and Centerville Horse Railroad Company received its charter from the General Assembly in 1865. The petitioners for the charter were Stephen Pardee, Simeon Baldwin, John Bassett, Andrew J. Doolittle, Chauncey Goodyear, Noyes Mix, Russell Leek, Jared Bassett, Charles Dickerman, Jesse Cooper, James Ives, Henry Munson, and others. They received permission to construct a railroad of not more than two tracks, through Broadway and Dixwell Avenue in New Haven to the northerly city line, and from there to a point in Centerville near the hotel occupied by Charles Dickerman. The capital stock was \$50,000, but this amount was soon doubled. The fare authorized was six cents in New Haven and fifteen cents in Hamden. In 1868 the printed schedule showed that cars left the Pavilion near Goodrich Street, Hamden, for York Street and Broadway every twenty minutes from 6.20 A.M. to 9.30 P.M., but service never went farther north than Goodrich Street. Nor did it go farther into New Haven than Pierpont's Market at Broadway and York Street, for Mr. Pierpont owned the controlling interest in the railroad, and he would not allow

it to pass beyond his store and thereby carry prospective business elsewhere!

WILLIAM J. LINTON, MASTER ENGRAVER

In 1867 William J. Linton sold his English home, "Brentwood," to John Ruskin, and came to live in Hamden. He purchased the Mather homestead on State Street near Davis Street, said to have been built in 1750. This home he named "Appledore," in appropriate recognition of the lovely apple orchard on the hillside of East Rock, overlooking the peaceful Quinnipiac meadows. Linton had gained fame in England as an author and engraver in wood, and at one time had been chief illustrator for the *Illustrated London News*. His intimate friends included Tennyson, Carlyle, Robert Browning, Longfellow, Whittier, and Bret Harte. He was close to Garibaldi through his interest in the Italian liberal movement, and actually came to this country for the purpose of winning support for it. In England he had been a liberal, an ardent Chartist, a staunch defender of the rights of workmen. Many of his illustrations appeared in American magazines.

One of his best known books, *The Masters of Wood Engraving*, was printed on a little hand press in his Hamden home. He lived such a completely retired life that he was practically unknown to the community during his thirty years residence here. It is reasonable to assume that he found conditions in this country so satisfactory as regards the working class, that he no longer had a militant interest in politics, such as he had felt in England. The "Appledore" press lay forgotten in the basement of Tuttle, Morehouse and Taylor in New

Haven until recent years, when it was discovered and presented to the Hamden Historical Society.

THE ATWATER FUND

In 1867, the will of George Atwater greatly benefited the insane poor of the town. The sum of nearly \$22,000 was left in trust to the trustees of the Hospital for the Insane located at Middletown, the income to be spent for the insane poor of the State, "giving preference to the indigent insane persons, if such there may be, belonging and having legal residence in my native town of Hamden."

SCHOOLS

In 1854, at a meeting of the Mount Carmel No. 4 School district held in Academy Hall, formerly the home of the Young Ladies Female Seminary, it was voted to rent the lower room for the school and a committee was chosen to negotiate for a building site. For ten years the purchase of Academy Hall was also considered. At one time it was decided to buy it, provided it could be had for \$1,500 payable in two years, but this vote was reconsidered. Later, when the building was offered for \$1,300, only \$1,100 was offered for it. Again, it was voted to make the purchase if right of way to it from the Turnpike could be acquired, but this vote too was rescinded. Finally the committee bought for \$200 land belonging to Mrs. Allen Dickerman and the district voted to expend not more than \$1,700 to establish a schoolhouse. It was voted that the old oak tree on the corner of Leverett Dickerman's lot be the place

for posting of school notices. This was at the southeast corner of Whitney Avenue and Ives Street.

The pay of teachers was still small. The East Plains Society, in levying a tax of four cents on the dollar, set their compensation at not more than a dollar a day, with not more than one teacher to a school. A year later the western district in the Mount Carmel Society, after "consulting the minds of the members," employed a man teacher for three or four months, paid Laban Downs \$2 a month for "good hard wood, cut and split ready for use, with cindlings," and approved \$2.10 a week for the teacher's board, "allowing each one to board their proportionable part of the teacher." (Which does not mean that the teacher's body was dissected and passed around!)

Although a state law of 1856 abolished the school societies and placed the control of schools with the town, Hamden did not turn the School Fund, then amounting to \$2,420.61, into the town treasury until 1870. However, Leverett Hitchcock, the town treasurer, handled the money.

When the Mount Carmel committee employed Mr. Fred Brockett as teacher, his salary was only \$1 a day, with \$3 for board. In comparison with female teachers, he was well paid. Miss Ellen Perkins received \$3 a week for teaching in the summer, and Miss Nelly Steele was given the same, "and board herself, or if any one wished to board their proportionable share at \$1.50 a week they can do so." Do the comparative figures indicate that a female was expected to eat only half as much as a man? or did the food from the summer gardens provide a cheaper table? Of all the economies ever practiced by Hamden school committees, the most

typical was a vote in 1857 "that we build a new out-house, using as much of the old as will answer." With true New England thrift, they not only never wasted a penny but did not waste a usable board either.

Although a teacher's qualifications to instruct the young were not often examined on any basis by the school committees whose sole responsibility it was to pass upon them, one committee appears to have had some misgivings, for, having hired the teacher, they entered this comment into the records, "We are likely to be disappointed in the teacher agreed upon." However, whether she was satisfactory or not, she taught the school.

The school districts (the original nine were now thirteen, two having consolidated and five divided), were numbered: In the Mount Carmel Society,

No. 1 was the North District.

No. 2 was the Northwest.

No. 3 was the Middle District.

No. 4 was at Mt. Carmel.

No. 5 was Centerville.

No. 6 was the Southern (Mix) District.

In the East Plains Society,

No. 7 was Churchillville (Skiff Street).

No. 8 was the Mill District (Whitneyville).

No. 9 was the East (State Street) District.

No. 10 was the Western (Brooks).

No. 11 was the Middle (Hamden Plains).

No. 12 was the Northwest (Dunbar) District.

No. 13 was Southwest (Highwood).

The incompleteness of the school records shrouds some actions in mystery. When in 1869 a meeting was

held "for the purpose of rejecting or accepting a certain legacy offered said district by the will of Sterling Bradley," what strings attached to the gift prompted the mention first of "rejecting"? And was the legacy accepted? Who was the Dr. Ives who was permitted to use the schoolhouse for singing school and to eject persons not belonging to it?

The Mount Carmel scholars were obliged to pay fifty cents, later a dollar, for each term of schooling, and payment was shrewdly required at the beginning of the term. For the protection of the buildings, fences, and furniture, it was ruled that the parents of each child who carved his initials or made other defacing marks should pay double the amount of the damage, or the child would be expelled from school.

The General Assembly of Connecticut, after several years of experimenting to determine the best rate of taxation for school purposes, finally voted in 1869 that the rate must be high enough to provide for thirty weeks of school each year. The so-called free-school law made it mandatory upon all the towns to maintain public schools by taxation.

A short-lived consolidation of the districts of the town into one, the Hamden Union School District, was effected by a town-meeting vote in January, 1870. A board of education was chosen, consisting of twelve members: Austin Putnam, Leverett Dickerman, Dr. Edwin Swift, Willis E. Miller, Hubert Warren, Henry Munson, Norris Mix, Andrew J. Doolittle, Edwin Potter, Lawrence Warner, Gilbert S. Benham, and John Peck. However, dissatisfaction arose within six months, and in October the January vote was rescinded. An

immediate embarrassment was faced, in that the board had authorized the erection of a new schoolhouse in District 14 ("Hamburg" now called Highwood), involving an indebtedness of \$2,208. The town washed its hands of the transaction, and ordered the board to dispose of the property as best they could at public auction. Later the town softened to the extent of voting to make up the difference, amounting to \$765, between the cost price and the sale price.

The first compulsory-attendance law was passed by the General Assembly in 1872, requiring all children between the ages of eight and fourteen to attend school at least three months each year. Acting under the provisions of this law, the board of school visitors, in records signed by Oliver Treadwell, noted that "the names of several delinquents, one from the second district, one from the eighth, and twelve from the fourteenth, were reported by the secretary, and he was directed to inform parents that in the future the state law in the case as well as that in reference to truancy would be enforced."

The following members of the board of school visitors—Elias Dickerman, Leverett Dickerman, and James J. Webb—came together fifteen minutes in advance of a town meeting and adopted by-laws which they then presented to the open meeting for its approval. Within a few months, the State Board of Education caused the by-laws to be amended, the reason being that in the opening exercises in the schools "the so-called James the First version of the Bible" was the one required to be used, and by both teachers and pupils. As changed, the by-law read, "with the reading by the teachers only, of a short portion of the Holy Scriptures such as she

may deem appropriate." The change was brought about by the desire of the community to keep religious differences out of the school program.

In 1874, the board of school visitors was composed of Amos Bradley, Oliver Treadwell, Dr. Edwin Swift, Algernon Beach, Ellsworth Cooper, and Andrew McKeon. They decided that the school holidays would be limited to Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, New Year's, February 22, Fast Day, July 4, Saturdays, and Teachers' Institute Day. For the loss of any other day, or part of a day, the teacher's pay would be cut.

Textbooks in use at this time included the following:

Readers—The Analytical Series

Arithmetic—Greenleaf's New Series, both intellectual and written

U. S. History—Anderson's

Geography—Mitchell's

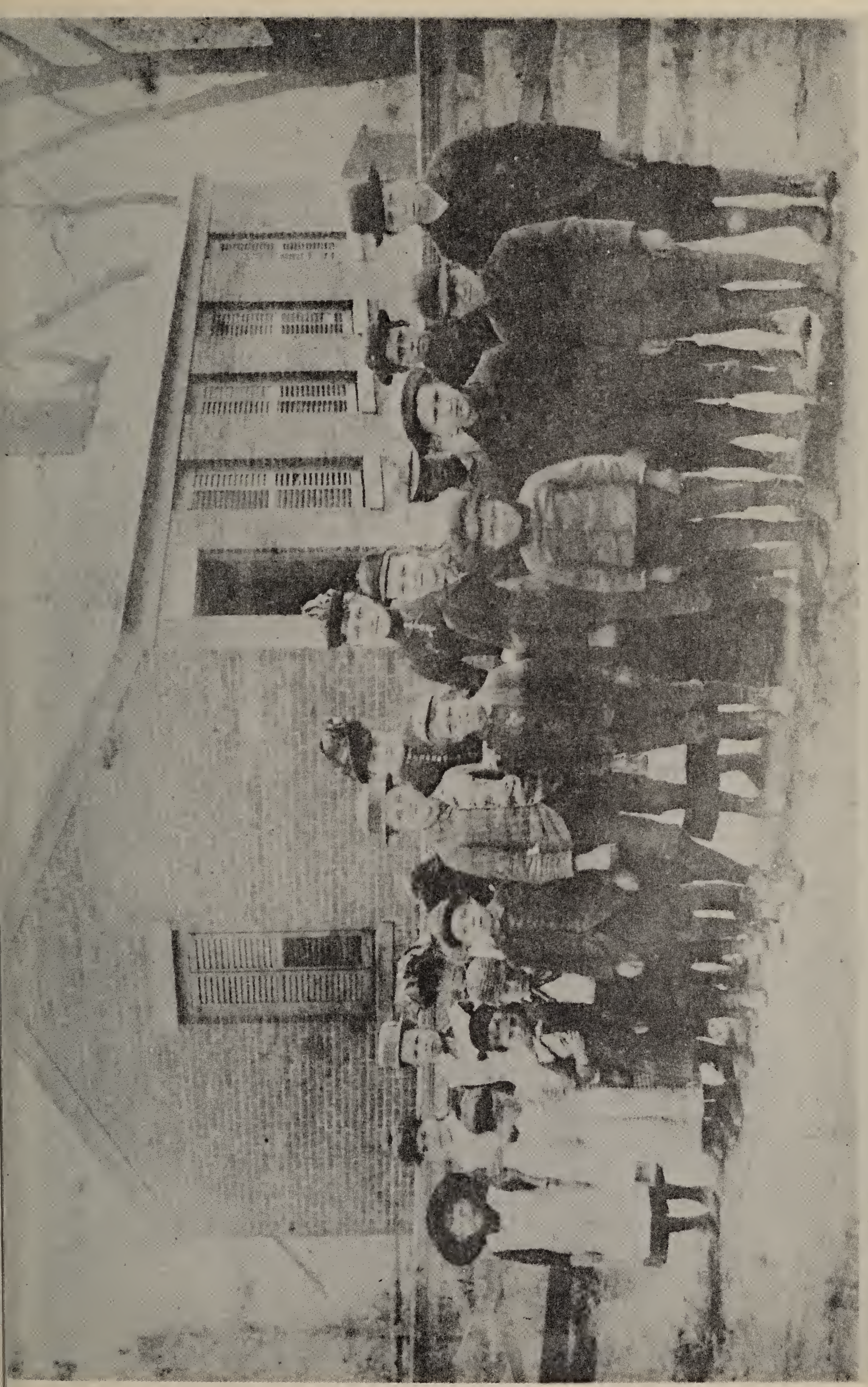
English Grammar—Hart's Series

Composition—Swinton's Language Lessons

Spelling—Webster's Analytical

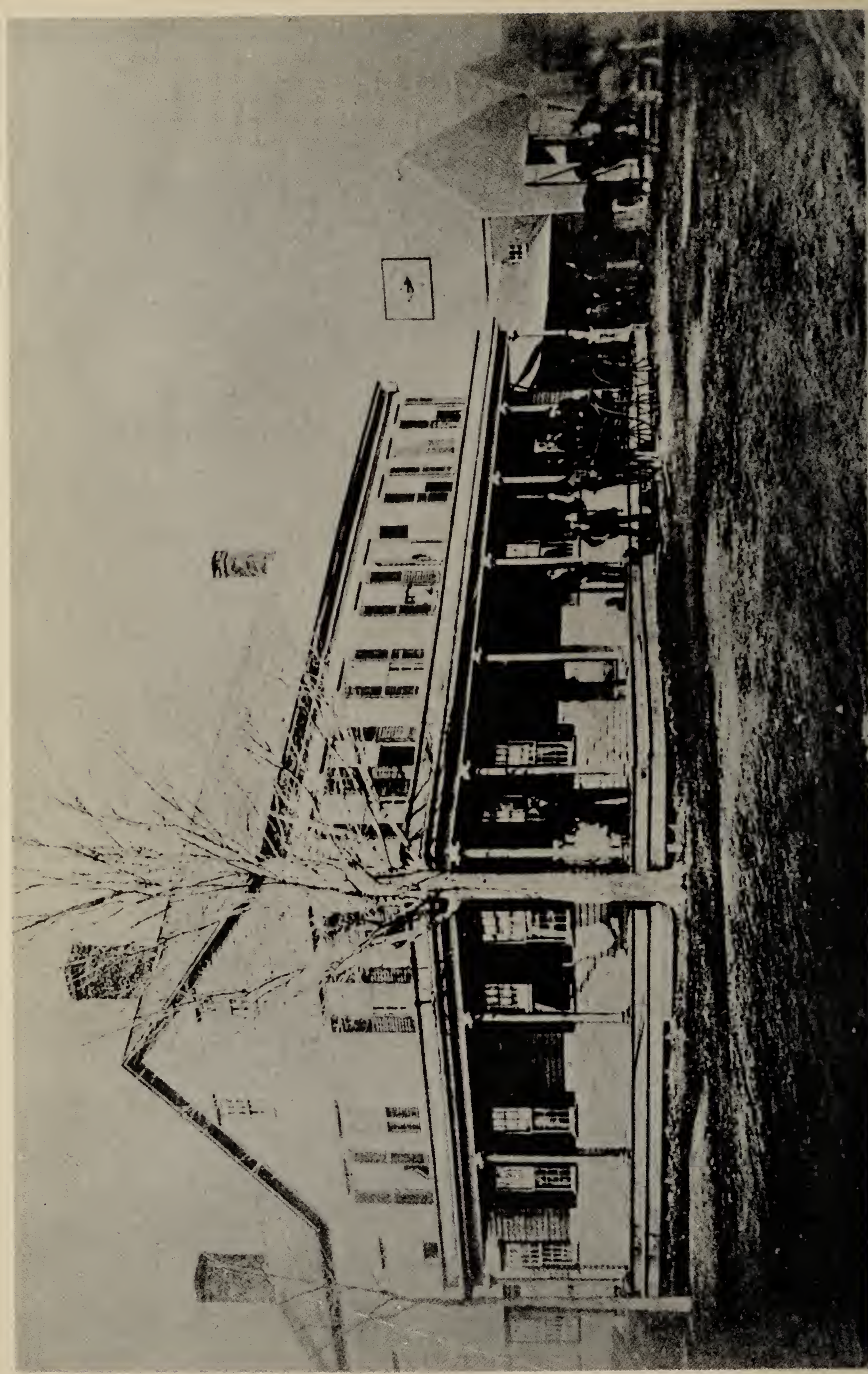
Economy was always foremost. In 1876 the Mount Carmel district voted to fence the school grounds with diamond board fence having three openings and a large gate, but quickly rescinded the action, "since the Town will not bear the expense." On one occasion, inexplicably, this district voted "to adjourn this meeting for five years"; and another time, "that the children have the apples that grow on the ground for the next five years."

Once more in the town's school history, when public educational facilities were very poor, private schools were established for those who were willing to pay for better. Mrs. H. G. Dickerman conducted a good school



Old State Street School

Gift of Arnold G. Dana



Sackett Hotel (The "New" Centerville House), Northeast Centerville Corner

Gift of Arnold G. Dana

in 1872 in a square building just south of her home on Whitney Avenue, opposite the old Young Ladies Female Seminary; and there the parents and grandparents of many present-day Mount Carmel people were pupils.

Schoolteaching seems to have been the proverbial profession which Mount Carmel Dickerman women followed. There were many of them in the public schools, and Miss Emma Dickerman, daughter of Leverett, established in 1884 an exemplary private school in upper rooms of the family home just south of Ives Street on Whitney Avenue. Girls and boys from six to sixteen were given thorough schooling, and an average of twenty-five pupils at a time were enrolled here over a period of forty years.

Many of the Hamden public schoolteachers received their first training for that work in these two schools.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The cause of widespread sickness in the town was the subject of an investigation undertaken in 1870, by a committee which Dr. Edwin Swift headed. Blame was laid on the variation in the water levels in Lake Whitney, with the result that a special town meeting passed the following resolution:

Whereas, the New Haven Water Company has so constructed and maintained their works in this town for the purpose of supplying the City of New Haven with water as to corrupt and poison the air, by means of which nearly our entire population has been made sick with chills and fever, and other diseases have been produced among us or greatly aggravated, while not a few have lost their lives; and real estate in this town

has been very largely depreciated in value; and whereas unless the cause of this great mischief is removed, the town of Hamden must continue to vitally suffer in all its interests until its population, wealth and business are substantially destroyed; and whereas self-preservation is nature's first law, a committee is hereby appointed to negotiate with the Water Company to remove from the reservoir all bushes, shrubs, leaves, grass, roots, peat, muck and other vegetable matter; to lower the dam at Whitneyville,—they having previously raised and maintained their dam in part for manufacturing purposes at Whitneyville; to keep such a supply of water during warm weather that no portion of the bed shall be so exposed as to impregnate the air with gases and exhalations prejudicial to health,—not to draw down the water as to cause the surrounding air to be corrupted with miasmatic poisons.

After this public diatribe, one can understand why the Water Company decided to comply, at least in part, with the request of the agitated townspeople, although emphasizing the fact that the whole trouble was due to Eli Whitney's business and its need for certain water levels.

CHARLES ROBERTS' LIVERY STABLE

The Centerville Trotting Park had proved a great attraction to horse lovers, and Charles Roberts shrewdly ventured to set up a livery business beside it in 1871. His place became a center for horse trading and racing. In time he established a hotel there which occupied most of his attention, while his brother "Jim" ran the stables.

The building on the crossroads corner to the south of Mr. Roberts had become in 1864 the property of

Hobart B. Sackett, who also conducted a livery and trading stable. In leasing his place in 1877 to Charles A. Buttrick for \$700 a year, Mr. Sackett listed a bar and its furnishings, including "12 black bottles, 3 decanters, 4 essence bottles, 1 gallon jar, 8 goblets, 16 large tumblers, 7 beer glasses, 10 thin glasses, 6 Tom and Jerry cups, and 1 tea kittle." There were five guest rooms.

The original Centerville House was conveyed to William B. Ives as a hotel in 1876. In common usage, Mr. Roberts' place came to be known as the Roberts House.

Whether or not the Centerville hotels and their business of dispensing refreshments was a deciding influence upon the feeling of the people can only be surmised, but a town meeting held in 1872 voted not to recommend any person to sell spirituous or intoxicating liquors, ale, or lager beer. The motion was upheld in a later vote, and then was rescinded after a few months. Again in 1874, the vote was against the sale of liquor, 81 to 56. The prohibition lasted for but one year, when the vote was again in favor of license, 158 to 57.

ABRAHAM'S CAVE

The Sleeping Giant was always a haunt of ambitious boys and pleasure-seeking climbers, and Abraham's Cave was an objective frequently sought. It was not easy to find, lying at a point below "Devil's Slide," which leads from the top of the third peak down the southern cliffs to the canyon which separates the third and fourth peaks. It is a fissure in the south side of the

third peak, not far from the windlass by which water used to be drawn to the top by means of Brockett's cable. The fissure varies from two to four feet in width, and leads into three chambers, the lowest one forty feet below the cave entrance. The first chamber is the largest, capable of holding sixteen people at one time. It is utterly dark, impossible to explore without a light. A steep and narrow incline leads to the bottom, which is very cold and damp.

This place became appropriately known as Dead Man's Cave, following a gruesome discovery made in 1872. It was a cold winter's day, and Homer Tuttle and Frederick Brockett, with several other boys, were vainly searching for the cave. Suddenly they spied the fissure, and scrambled eagerly over the boulders to it. They came to an abrupt halt when they saw a shoe protruding over the rocks near the entrance, and on discovering that it was worn by a dead man, they fled in terror. Because of a heavy snowstorm, it was three days before a party could carry him out of the woods. An empty laudanum vial was found beside the body, which was expensively dressed; \$40 in money was in his pockets, a valuable watch and considerable costly jewelry—all marked with the initials "E. B."—were found on his person. An advertisement in the newspapers brought no one to claim the body, and he was buried by the town. Within a week afterward, he was identified as Edward Barnum, the nephew of P. T. Barnum of circus fame.

FRATERNAL AND RELIGIOUS MATTERS

The First Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians, with a membership of more than fifty, was organized in 1873 by men of Irish birth and descent, most of them

living in Mount Carmel, the roster bristling with Kellys, O'Connells, McKeons, and Sullivans. The Order flourished for many years, and always added color to local parades.

Through the efforts of Norris Mix, Day Spring Lodge of the Masonic Order was reëstablished. Brother Leverett Hitchcock, who had surrendered the charter to the Grand Lodge in 1838, was the only living member of the earlier group to take part in the ceremonies in 1870. Meetings were held in the upper rooms of the building on the southeast corner of Whitney and Dixwell Avenues in Centerville.

The long rectorship of Rev. Charles W. Everest at Grace Episcopal Church ended in 1874. For over thirty years he had carried the full responsibility for the church and the Rectory School, with additional duties when he officiated for a year at St. John's Church in North Haven. The *North Haven Annals* says of him:

The next clergyman in order was Rev. Charles W. Everest, who having a semi-military school in Hamden, consented to officiate in the North Haven Church half-time, 1846-7 inclusive. The assistance of this helpful man was of incalculable value to St. John's. His ministry was a sunny period in the parish history. The Congregational churches stood equally ready to accord him honor as a poet, a scholar and a divine. Through his efforts the women were brought forward to take part in material work, for up to this time no carpeting had been laid in the Church. In 1847 enough was purchased to furnish the aisles.

His broad interest included civic as well as religious and educational matters, one manifestation of which was the planting with his own hands of many of the grand old maple trees on Whitney Avenue in Centerville.

Beginning in 1868, religious services were held in the public-school building on Morse Street, under the direction of Center Church in New Haven. A chapel called the New Lebanon Mission was erected on Morse Street five years later, and for a number of years Sunday services included afternoon Sunday School classes as well as morning worship. After the mission had been closed, this was written on the door by an anonymous person, "Lebanon Mission Please Come Back."

SILK MANUFACTURE

Mr. R. S. Clark had been established for only three years in his factory at Clark's Pond, where he continued to make small bells, when he decided in 1875 to try an entirely new business. He knew nothing about the manufacture of silk and had very little money with which to experiment, but he persisted until he and his employees could turn out highly satisfactory silk thread, embroideries, and floss, in competition with imported goods. His son, Herman D. Clark, patented a process of covering cotton thread with silk, which looked like all-silk but was cheaper. In the description of this enterprise, Blake's *History of Hamden* disclosed its political bias in this comment: "There is little doubt that if the manufacturers of silk are properly protected by a tariff, they will be able to supply nearly all the demand of the country for all kinds of silk manufactured goods."

TOWN HIGHWAYS

Town meeting still had time to interest itself in small or personal matters. A committee consisting of

Henry Munson, Lucius Ives, and Calvin Benham were appointed by town meeting in 1875 to examine a bridge where Lewis Joyce and his wife were injured. They were asked to report to an adjourned town meeting what was the extent of personal injuries and the damage to the horse and wagon, and to advise "how much in Justice the town ought to pay them." Upon the committee's recommendation, \$150 was promptly paid by the town to Mr. Joyce.

The labor of one particular citizen upon the town roads was so unsatisfactory that in referring his claim to the selectmen for settlement the town meeting voted that "all town officers are hereby instructed not to employ him in any business for the town, and that the town will not be held responsible for any bills presented for labor hereafter performed by him."

A new road was presented to the town by Samuel P. Crafts, the State Street brick-maker, who explained his gift in this way:

In view of the want of a direct road to the new station [Quinnipiac] on the Hartford and New Haven Railroad, of an easy grade to haul hay off the salt meadows and to carry wood to the brickyards; and of a road which will not be liable to be blocked with snow in winter,—I hereby agree to give the town a road 50 feet wide through my farm from one street to the other, provided the town will fence and work it.

At this time Captain Crafts was working the clay beds near Quinnipiac Station, and there, deep in the clay, he found two well-preserved leg bones of reindeer. The same clay bed afforded a boulder of trap rock four feet in diameter, other smaller stones, and patches of pebbles. Captain Crafts believed that their presence

implied that floating ice deposited them there, and that reindeer followed close on the retreating glacier.

THE TOWN CLERKS

The perennial question of building a town hall met with another postponement, for two more years, in 1876. The town meeting of that year voted to have no more than three selectmen, and to purchase a fireproof safe for the town records, carefully stipulating that said safe should be guaranteed.

Town clerks proverbially hold office for long terms, and Hamden is no exception in this regard, having had only seven. Simeon Bristol, one of the selectmen when the town was organized, also served as town clerk from 1786 to 1801. He was succeeded by Russell Pierpont, who carried on the work of the office until 1842. While in that position, Mr. Pierpont was selectman from 1806 to 1808, and represented Hamden in the General Assembly in 1810 and 1818. He was the great-grandson of the Reverend James Pierpont who was ordained as the first pastor of Center Church in New Haven in 1685.

When Russell Pierpont retired from office in 1842, Leverett Hitchcock became town clerk. His family had been in Hamden ever since his great-grandfather John Hitchcock acquired land at Mount Carmel in 1708. John's son Isaac, and Isaac's son Ichabod, like Leverett himself, were born in Hamden. During his term of thirty-four years, he served one year in the General Assembly (1839), and for twenty-five years was also the Hamden postmaster in Centerville, to which position he was appointed in 1851.

In 1876, Ellsworth Cooper became town clerk. He was born in Centerville, son of Ezra Cooper, who maintained a blacksmith shop there for fifteen years, having previously worked in Mr. Whitney's Armory. Ellsworth attended Hamden schools, including the Misses Dickerman's select school, and North Haven Academy. He taught school in North Branford, North Haven, and Brookfield, and in 1868 at Mount Carmel. Oddly enough, after devoting so much time to teaching, he became a clerk in Eneas Warner's store in the first floor of the building used for town meetings, and worked there for six years. Beginning in 1876, he was town clerk until 1904, and town treasurer at the same time, until 1900.

THE STOCK YARDS

When Edward Riley, butcher, and his wife moved from New Haven out into Hamden, Dixwell Avenue was a winding cartpath, with grass growing between the wheel tracks. They lived in a small house on Dixwell Avenue opposite Woodin Street. In 1876 he built a new house nearer to the slaughter-house which he maintained near the Northampton Railroad tracks just south of Putnam Avenue, known to railroad men as "the stock yards." Mr. Riley lived here for fifty years, and sold a large proportion of the meat which the big hotels, restaurants, and provision stores in New Haven used.

WATER COMPANIES

Wintergreen Lake in the western part of the town was purchased in 1877 by the New Haven Water Company from John Osborn, who had built a dam there in

1863. The reservoir, covering sixty acres, was a half-mile long, and water was supplied from it to houses in the Prospect Street section in New Haven. Wintergreen Falls is still a romantic spot, the water falling one hundred feet into a wooded ravine. For one hundred years this property belonged to the Henry Munson family.

Inspired perhaps by this expansion of the New Haven Water Company, a charter was obtained in 1878 for the Mount Carmel Water Company, which started with a capital of \$5,000. It was organized by James Ives, the manufacturer, who was president; Allen Osborn secretary, treasurer, and surveyor; and Lyman Bassett and Samuel Hayes directors. The company acquired title to land and water-heads in the northwestern part of the town, believing that such a supply as they could furnish would be available to sections of too high elevation to be supplied by the New Haven system. In addition, they wished to provide water for Centerville, Hamden Plains, and Mount Carmel.

Reverend Charles W. Everest had obtained in 1864 a charter for waterworks in Centerville, and a hydraulic ram was operated on Mill River which pumped water to the buildings on the Rectory School property and some near-by houses to which a pipe line had been laid.

THE WALLINGFORD TORNADO

Hamden has been a friendly town to her neighbors and such things as boundary lines, responsibility for paupers, and other common sources of ill-will between towns have, when necessary, been adjusted without rancor. New Haven, Woodbridge, Bethany, Cheshire, Wallingford, and North Haven have lived beside us in

peace. In 1877, when the tornado caused great distress in Wallingford, a Hamden town meeting voted \$500 "to aid sufferers by the late calamity."

SCHUETZEN PARK

Centerville was not the only spot chosen in this period for the operation of amusement facilities. In the State Street section of Hamden, a very large plot of ground, approximately 543 by 720 feet, was acquired by a group of promoters, and soon another strip, 145 by 230 feet, was added. The organizers of the Schuetzen Park Stock Corporation were John Miller, Friederich Plueger, Frantz Doerschuck, Charles Volkman, Frank Tiesing, Roger Schlegel, Joseph Gilch, Friederick Buchholz, Louis Luft, Charles Schneider, William Englehardt, and Christian Streit. They leased the property to Friederich Schaeffer of Jersey City in 1878, and he equipped it with a bar, tenpin alleys, and a shooting gallery. It was well patronized as a picnic and outing park for many years.

CARRIAGE POLES

Granniss and Russell, manufacturers located on Mill River at Ives Street and Broadway, made kegs used for shipping hardware, and also maintained a blacksmith and wagon repair shop. In 1878 they developed a specialty of adjustable carriage poles, patents for which were secured under the names "Ives Carriage Pole" and "Bishop Pole." Their business in these items, if not extending from pole to pole, went as far as Maine and Georgia.

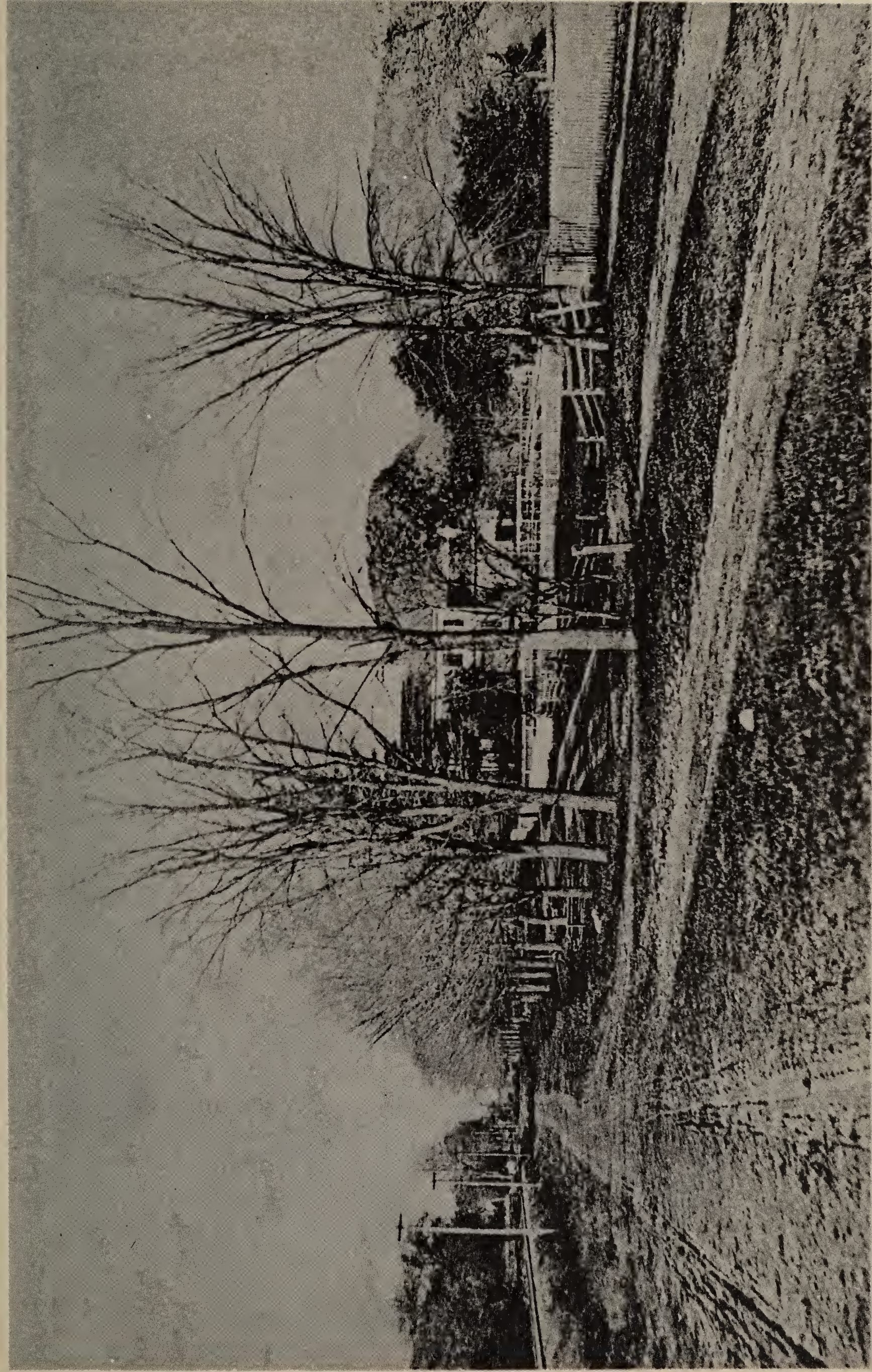
MOVING THE RAILROAD TRACKS

For many years railway accommodations for Mount Carmel people were limited to two open platforms, one at Ives Street, the other near the Axle Works. The railway agent at Ives Street was Riley Parmeter, who kept the general store there, and Willis Miller acted in the same capacity at the Axle Works. About 1874 a station was erected somewhat below the Mount Carmel meetinghouse, and Elam Dickerman was the station agent. Before this time he had been in the Axle Works and the Ives, Woodruff Company, and had helped his father, Orrin Dickerman, in the slaughter-house which he maintained at Clark's Pond.

At that time the tracks ran beside the Cheshire Turnpike through Centerville and Mount Carmel, and complaints were many that the trains frightened horses on the road. William Durand and his wife brought suit against the railroad company for injuries they received in an accident when their horse ran away. The judge of the Superior Court, in awarding them \$6,000 damages, remarked:

The defendants located their road in such a way that travel on the turnpike is exceedingly perilous. It is an eminently dangerous place. It has been the scene of accidents. . . . It is remarkable that commissioners should have consented to accept such a location of the road.

A town meeting in 1879 voted to borrow \$15,000 to improve the turnpike, "and to secure the removal of the railroad tracks from their location adjacent to the highway to such a route as shall secure ordinary safety to public travel."



Whitney Avenue, 1847-1880, Showing Railroad Tracks in the Road

Gift of Arnold G. Dana



Elam Dickerman's Depot Store

Within two weeks a special town meeting was called, and James Ives moved to rescind the action so recently taken. The vote was close, so close according to the town records, that

owing to the large number of persons present it was impossible for the moderator to determine the result of the vote by acclamation. The meeting adjourned temporarily to assemble in the open air, and upon request of the moderator, separated into two divisions to be counted. The count having been made, the moderator was informed by the tellers that there were 282 in favor of the motion [to rescind], and 285 opposed.

So by the narrow margin of three votes, the town proceeded to pay the railroad \$14,000 to move the tracks westward to their present position, beginning near the Hamden Plains Church and extending as far north as Lorenzo Peck's, at the corner of Whitney Avenue and Todd Street.

This was one of the few bad bargains the town ever made. The railroad had paid \$3,000 in the first place for the privilege of laying the tracks beside the highway, had operated there much to the public hazard for thirty years, and then was paid a substantial sum to "move over."

WILLIS BENHAM'S LAWSUIT

A natural aftermath of the removal of the railroad tracks was a dispute about property rights involved. Willis Benham, who lived on Dixwell Avenue north of where the high school now stands, brought suit against First Selectman Edwin Potter, claiming that the old highway, fenced in and used by him while the canal and railroad were in use there, and which the town was

now trying to reopen and use as a highway, should be his. Mr. Benham's claims were sustained by the court, and the town paid him \$2,500 for the land.

The difficulties which the town experienced with the railroad, the turnpikes, and the canal were typical also of other American towns of the period.

A new depot was built in 1881 just north of the meetinghouse on the new railroad line, and Elam Dickerman was the agent there for a short time. It is said that the new station was opened on a very rainy day, and that Elam stood out on the platform under an inadequate umbrella with a handful of tickets, ready for prospective passengers. The railroad company asked him to learn telegraphy, but he would not be burdened with the task. Instead he purchased the old brick depot on the turnpike and operated a general store in it. When the building burned, Elam was given the old 1770 schoolhouse, which had not been used as a school since the new No. 3 building was put up in a more central location opposite the present Fitch Brothers gas station and nearer the mountain. Willis Miller entertained enough sentiment for the old school—the only one he had ever attended—to buy it and present it to Elam, who moved it to where his store had stood. Eventually it was moved over to Ives Street and used as a part of the house on the northwest bank of the river.

Old residents of Mount Carmel believed that the building was not a schoolhouse originally, but a "Sabba day" house for the Mount Carmel church.

POPULATION

There were five villages in Hamden in 1880, centered about the churches and factories. Increasing num-

bers of New Haven's population were moving out here into the suburbs. Some town officials expressed concern that many newcomers from New Haven were of such limited means that they very soon became a care and expense to the town. The population of the villages was approximately as follows:

Augerville, 62	Ivesville, 474
Centerville, 191	Whitneyville, 196
Hamburg, 477	

Comparative figures for Hamden and New Haven for ninety years show—

<i>Census</i>	<i>Hamden</i>	<i>New Haven</i>
1790	1,422	4,448
1800	1,482	5,157
1810	1,716	6,697
1820	1,687	8,327
1830	1,666	10,678
1840	1,797	15,820
1850	2,164	22,529
1860	2,728	39,277
1870	3,028	50,840
1880	3,408	62,880

Writing in 1886, William P. Blake says: "The horse railways contribute somewhat to the increase of the population of the suburbs of the city, and when they become sufficiently powerful and farsighted to surmount the small natural obstacle of the Mill Rock trapdyke, there will be a rapid expansion of population upon the high plains beyond it."

Edward Davis operated the Whitney Avenue horse-car line which had its terminus at the Whitney Armory, for a period of ten years, beginning in 1877. Coming to Hamden in 1837, he at first lived on "Spring Glen,"

the property later owned and so named by James J. Webb. He subsequently bought a place on the Hartford Turnpike, and began the systematic acquisition of considerable adjoining land, which he eventually sold to the New Haven Country Club. Previous to his operation of the horsecar line, he was a farmer and dairyman. He held town office once as an assessor, and one term as selectman. His sons William and James established the Davis Brick Company.

During the period of horsecar terminus at the armory, Norman Lyman of Waite Street used to ride a high-wheeled bicycle from his home to Blakeslee's store, which stood beside Day's boathouse. He left the bicycle there during the day, using the horsecar for the journey to his work in New Haven. Boys who hung around the store used to play with the fascinating vehicle. One of them, while riding it, had the misfortune to slip off from the store's rear veranda which overhung the lake, plunging into the water. He and his companions had a busy time fishing the clumsy vehicle from its deep bath, and thereafter removing the muddy traces of the episode before Mr. Lyman came to claim it.

The stage lines were still in operation. Jerome Dorman managed the Hamden Plains line, and the Mount Carmel stage changed hands many times—E. P. Lucas, Collett, Burleigh, Ives, 'Neas Warner, and Harmon Wakefield being the drivers. Harmon Wakefield also did carting for the factories at Mount Carmel. He was said to have had a strong aversion to driving in the rain, creating situations often trying to the manufacturers. On one cloudy morning a messenger from a local company came to Harmon's door, saying, "Would you be willing to do a job today, in spite of the very heavy dew?"

THE MOUNT CARMEL BOLT COMPANY

The Mount Carmel Bolt Company was established in 1880. One is not surprised to observe that James Ives was the president; but it is also interesting to note that all the officers were the same as those of the Mount Carmel Water Company. They began in the building on the west side of the Cheshire Turnpike, opposite Ives Street, where businesses have been continuous. They made stove and tire bolts, and rivets of steel. Edward McLane, the company's master mechanic, invented and patented an automatic machine to turn out what were gruesomely called "cold-pressed swedge-nuts," used on tire bolts.

"DOCTOR" HURD

The town of Hamden had profited by the expert and kindly services of Dr. Edwin Swift for many years—services which could perhaps be better appreciated when compared with the services offered by a Negro who called himself "Doctor" Hurd. This healer settled on Arch Street in Highwood, in a 12- by 15-foot shed-like house in which he sheltered a wife and fifteen children. He said that he had been a slave, "born down in Virginny a long time before the War."

He enjoyed an incredibly large practice, being called from as far away as West Haven. He could neither read nor write, and was eccentric in dress. On his professional rounds he wore a silk hat, Prince Albert coat, dark striped trousers, and a pair of high gum boots, over which he slipped a pair of arctics.

Two signboards decorated the front of his house, one over the door and the other over the windows. They

were embellished with crudely painted horseshoes. One of them read:

Dr. Hurd is sure to cure the dipther and scarlet fever, and if lose the voice can bring it back again and brest desease. \$5 advance.

The other said:

I can cure all kinds sore throat and no questions asked. I can handle a case in 80 minutes. Give me a trial if your baby is sick. Also rheumatics cured.

His kit, which he carried in his left-side overcoat pocket, consisted of an old baking-powder can filled with "improved liniment," a sticky, greasy, dark-colored ointment, that might have been mistaken for good wagon grease, or if analyzed, would perhaps have proved to be lard and gunpowder, a favorite remedy of the Southern Negro for curing all ills that flesh is heir to.

To cure the "dipther" he rubbed some of his magic material about the throat; and for scarlet fever he gave the patient a bath of it. With this same cure-all he brought back the voice from the depths of silence and relieved "brest desease," the latter treatment requiring very hard rubbing with the ointment.

Doctor Hurd handed out slips of paper on which was written,

Notice! I will guarantee to cure any case of Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria in two hours unless the person is too far gone.

DR. DANIEL HURD.

He boasted that in all his long practice he had lost only two patients, and that both of them, previous to their

last illness, had been victims of "fussing" by other doctors. He was called in too late, that was all. But his one weak spot was the necessity to explain why he had not been able to cure his deceased wife. His only explanation was that it was "in strawberry time," he was very busy, and somehow she died.

First he always gave a "zamination," grasping the right wrist and then the left. Then he placed a hand on the patient's forehead and requested him to blow two full breaths into his (the doctor's) face, so that he might detect stomach troubles. He claimed to be able to diagnose a fever merely by touching the patient's flesh. Believing that fever was at the bottom of all illness, and that the part of the body affected could be located by touch, he concentrated his attention upon that area. For eighty minutes, sometimes a shorter period, he watched to see whether the fever was increasing or subsiding. He had only to poke his thumb into the "digest"—which he designated as "where the short ribs run together in front"—to find out what the patient had eaten for breakfast and what had created the internal commotion. It is hard to believe that this imposter prospered in Hamden up until 1893!

EAST ROCK PARK

The layout of East Rock Park, part of which lies in Hamden, was designed in 1880 by Donald G. Mitchell, New Haven author, known through his books as "Ik Marvel." For some years the Rock had been owned by Seth Turner, a hermit who lived in a stone house. In 1855, it was acquired by Milton J. Stewart who, in anticipation of another flood, built a boat forty feet long on the summit of the Rock. When the prop-

erty was condemned and taken over by the city, the park officials thriftily made the boat into a huge flower pot. Mr. Stewart retaliated by building on State Street near Lawrence a row of twelve miserable and unsightly hovels which became known as "the dirty dozen."

In designing the park, Mr. Mitchell set down for succeeding generations to love and admire as great an unfolding tale of delight as any of his books contained. In spring, summer, and autumn, the miles of its drives, lined with trees and shrubs, laurel, dogwood, and cool dark ferns, display Nature at her loveliest. Unparalleled vistas and panoramas can be viewed to all points of the compass—the city of New Haven and its harbor, the villages of Hamden, the majestic Sleeping Giant blue in the distance, Lake Whitney and the lower curves and twists of Mill River—which, seen from above, suggest the words of the poem,

Great, wide, wonderful, beautiful world,
With the wonderful waters about you curled.

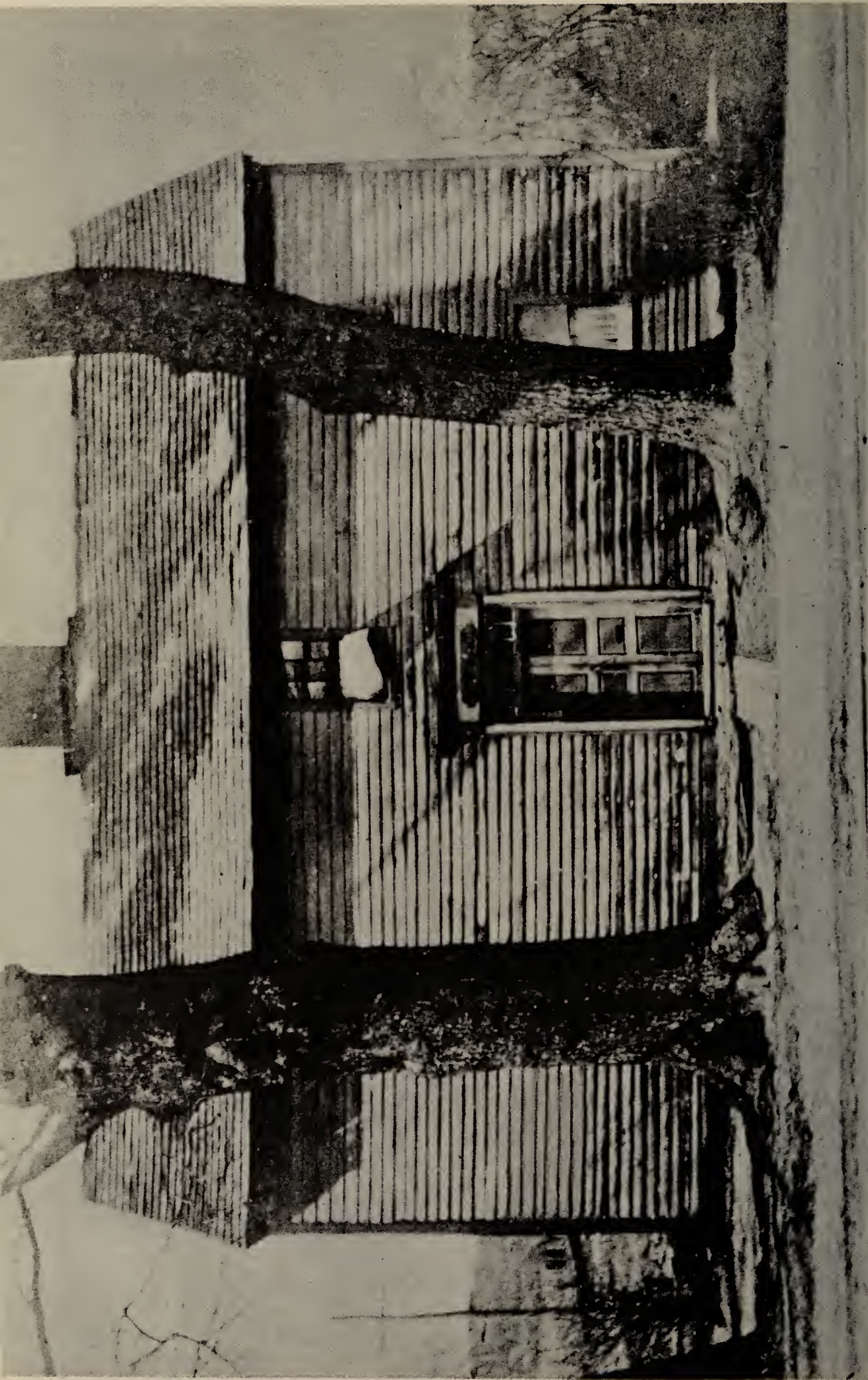
Driving up East Rock in horse-drawn vehicles on Sunday afternoon was a favorite recreation for many; and on the Fourth of July the walk to the top was well rewarded by a sight of the fireworks on New Haven Green. A flock of sheep used to graze picturesquely on the rounded sunny slope near the Davis Street gate in Hamden. Poets may endlessly sing of the natural beauties around us, but without putting a pen to paper, Mr. Mitchell yet brought to our hearts, without the need of words, the never-ceasing inspiration and love for all beauty and its Creator, which man since the world began has found in woods and flowers, lakes and mountains.



Bolt Company Employees

Men in front row, Samuel Hayes, Lyman H. Bassett, Allen Osborn, with Edwin McLane behind him

Gift of Arnold G. Dana



Whitneyville Post Office, on Whitney Avenue at Augur Street

Gift of Arnold G. Dana

TOWN AFFAIRS

The practice of levying a special school tax was discontinued, and after 1878 an annual appropriation from town funds was made. The Webster-Franklin *Readers* and Harper's *Geography* were adopted for the schools, and the school visitors, who still constituted the examining board for teachers, took under consideration the provision of free textbooks for poor children. They turned down someone's timorous suggestion of making Memorial Day a school holiday. Schools were apparently considered less and less important when money was expended from the town treasury. The cost of running Hamden schools in 1875 was \$6,175.67; then in 1876, \$6,480; in 1877, \$5,813.46; in 1878, \$5,600; in 1879, \$4,953; and \$4,900.36 in 1880.

The annual town meeting of 1880 resolved that "in view of the extraordinary amount paid for counsel fees the past year, the selectmen be and are hereby requested to explain the necessity for such outlay; such explanation to be made now, or at the adjourned meeting in January." The town fathers decided to explain later. This action is illustrative of the fearless use made by the citizens in town meeting of their right to question even the highest officers, and demand answers.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

Three bridges were built over Mill River within a five-year period—an iron one at Centerville, south of the Web Company; another on Ives Street, replacing an old wooden bridge near Lucius Ives's house; and Pardee's bridge leading into North Haven, east of Centerville on Dixwell Avenue.

The town voted to set up stone posts on the boundary lines with Wallingford and Cheshire, "provided these towns will bear half the expense." An appropriation of \$1,000 was made for hardening Whitney Avenue from Armory Street to the New Haven town line, and an equal amount was set aside for improving Dixwell Avenue, beginning with the New Haven line. Four dollars a day was allowed on road work for a man and team.

The vote on the sale of liquor was close during these years—246 to 201 for license in 1884, 220 to 204 in 1885, and 194 to 178 in 1886.

Dr. Edwin Swift and Michael Farrell were joint health officers, and they reported: "The health of the town is good. No epidemic has swept over any portion thereof. Malarial troubles, which for a period of eighteen or more years [from 1863] were the scourge of Hamden, are now but little seen."

The town continued to carry out faithfully the terms of Enos Brooks's will in regard to expenditure of the earnings of the town farm. In 1880 \$200 was gained "from hay, grain, garden produce, cows, swine and chickens," and it was "worked out by E. W. Pinney, superintendent of the farm, on the Cheshire Turnpike between Mount Carmel Church and the store of Hobart Kimberly."

Selectman Charles P. Augur kept *An Account Book of Supplies Furnished Outside Poor by Town of Hamden*, and some of the items are worthy of mention as a picture of conditions in this period:

Mrs. J., colored, Hamburg. 3 children. Husband "No Good." Destitute. \$1. a week order for goods. Two year old died and was buried in the free ground of the

Whitneyville Cemetery. Paid sexton for digging grave, \$1.50.

.

I., native, wife and four children. Health bad. Have received help for several years. I. died at town house. Widow remarried. New husband is better than the old one. Two children sent to county home. Mrs. again a resident of the town house with her babe of about 7 months.

.

J. I., old bumner, belongs to East Haven. \$18.10 paid by East Haven.

.

Miss S., native, imbecile. Board her for \$1. a week. Later for \$5 a month.

.

Mrs. G. Husband gone off with another woman, and left her with six children. Some coal and \$1 a week.

.

K., Hungarian. Taken to hospital in New Haven. Found under brick shed sick. About 25 years old. Been in country only six months. In town 3 days. Discharged and left town. Hospital bill \$20.87.

.

Thomas. English. Lived in Centerville. About 35 years old. Wife and child. Partially deranged for some months, but is now considered dangerous. His wife not being able to support him and he having no relatives, was sent to the Middletown Insane Asylum.

THE *James Ives*

James Ives retired from business in 1883, at the age of seventy-eight, having spent fifty years in active management of Mount Carmel industries. The firm of Ives and Woodruff became Woodruff and Miller. In the same year, Gesnar and Mar's shipyard in West Haven

launched a three-masted schooner known as the *James Ives*. The principal owner was Henry Sutton, and the stockholders lived in New Haven and Mount Carmel. Hobart Ives was captain, and there was a crew of nine. The vessel carried coal and lumber along the coast, and her first run was to Baltimore. She was 140 feet long, 35 feet wide, and her hold was 11½ feet deep.

James Ives's nephew and Lucius Ives's grandson, Frank G. Ives, died a comparatively young man. The account of his funeral, besides showing the high regard in which he was held, is interesting for the description of the floral tributes.

FRANK G. IVES

The services over the remains of the late Frank G. Ives were conducted at the Congregational Church Saturday afternoon by Rev. Mr. Higgins. A crowded church attested the interest felt on the occasion of this sudden removal of one of the most promising and respected of our young men. In his business relations, in his capacity as librarian of the Sunday School, and as a member of the Sons of Temperance he had won for himself deserving high regard. Excelsior Division, S. of T., attended the funeral in a body and contributed a floral piece emblematic of the order. There was also a pillow from his mother and sister, a cross from the Sunday School, an anchor, star and white dove from his associates in business, and gates-ajar from his employer, William Hitchcock. The bearers were A. E. Woodruff, W. C. Ives, T. F. Farrell, W. S. Ives, H. D. Clark and George Andrews. As a mark of respect the shops were closed during the afternoon and the stores were kept closed during the funeral services.

An indication of the importance of the Ives family in Mount Carmel is brought out in the account of a golden wedding anniversary:

Mt. Carmel without its Ives's would be like Shakespeare's *Hamlet* with Hamlet's part left out. That this family name lives and thrives here, is seen in the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Ives celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Tuesday. . . . Much of the success of the gathering was due Leverett Dickerman, Dr. Swift and C. A. Burleigh. . . . Some 150 persons participated in the festivities of the occasion, among them a neighbor, Mrs. Todd, upwards of eighty years old without a gray hair. Of the family, five children and six grandchildren—all that are home—were present.

The anniversary was held in the old homestead where Mr. Ives was born and has always lived [on the east side of Mill River, on Ives St.]. The grounds were brilliantly illuminated with Chinese lanterns, and the Centerville Brass Band enlivened the occasion with choice music.

Letters of congratulation and respect were received from Rev. Hubbell, who so firmly tied the knot fifty years ago, from Rev. I. P. Warren, D.D., of Portland, Me., and Rev. J. H. DeForest, of Osaka, Japan, both former pastors here; also Rev. A. Putnam of Whitneyville. From Rev. J. Brewster came a magnificent display of calla lilies and cut flowers, whose fragrance filled the house. Rev. L. H. Higgins invoked the divine blessing, and followed by a brief presentation speech a magnificent loaf of cake, most artistically iced, bearing the dates, "1833-1883," the whole surrounded by fifty one-dollar gold pieces, and presented by friends outside the family.

Mr. Ives and wife have been members of the Congregational Church here for fifty years, and Mr. Ives a member of the choir for some sixty years. . . . The venerable couple share the good will and hearty wishes of the community where they have been so long and

widely known. . . . Take it all in all, it was a red-letter day for the Ives family, as well as Mount Carmel.

Back in 1868, the Ives homestead had been the scene of another golden wedding, of Jason and his wife. Jason was one of Elam Ives's thirteen children, and he with his brother Parsons drove the freight team in 1812. The newspaper account said in part:

The pleasant hospitable residence is located on the banks of Mill River, whose murmuring notes harmonized finely with the festive occasion, while the Sleeping Giant, Mt. Carmel, but a short distance to the north and in full view, not only added largely to the attractiveness of the scenery, but seemed to invest it with a mysterious and supernatural interest. . . . In these days of physical degeneracy, it was peculiarly interesting to behold the erect and vigorous figures of the bride and groom—examples of vigorous and temperate habits—true descendants of their parents. . . . The whole affair was interspersed with vocal and instrumental music of a high character, to which neither the parties nor premises were strangers.

Another golden wedding celebrated in 1883 was that of Reverend Austin Putnam and his wife, in the Whitneyville church, where he was serving his forty-fifth year as pastor. The occasion was managed by Charles P. Augur, John Burton, and Eli Dickerman. The ushers were J. J. Webb, Deacon Payne, and Dr. Treadwell. There was a splendid ornamented cake; embedded in its surface were fifty gold dollars. The Young Ladies' Mission Circle presented another cake, "upon which was a dove, a horseshoe, etc., the dove having suspended by a ribbon from its beak a \$10 gold piece."

Another gift was "a large and elegant bronze metal ink-stand," and there was also "an elegant portmannaie with \$50 enclosed."

The fraternal affection which has, since 1834, been exhibited between the Hamden Plains Methodist Church and the Whitneyville Church was marked by the first of many subsequent joint Thanksgiving services.

POST OFFICES

The postal facilities of the town had begun with Chauncey Foote's appointment as Hamden postmaster at Centerville back in 1834; and some of his successors were Leverett Hitchcock, Frederick Tuttle, and "Gib" Benham. Lucius Ives became postmaster at Mount Carmel in Ivesville in 1853, and the Mount Carmel Center post-office near the Axle Shop was set up later. Four years after this, Jesse Cooper became Whitneyville's postmaster, soon followed by James Day.

It is said that Highwood people used to have their mail addressed to a store on Broadway in New Haven, where they would go to receive it. John Sanford used to take mail addressed to Hamden Plains church members from the Centerville post-office to his home on Saturday afternoon, distributing it in the church pews before service on Sunday morning. Visel's store on St. Mary Street was the first official post-office in Highwood. At the time that it was established in 1888 and a name had to be chosen for it, the Visels—looking from their windows at the high trees near the railroad tracks—suggested the name "Highwood," which was immediately adopted by the village as a whole, previously known as Hamburg.

AGRICULTURE

In 1886 the number of cattle owned by Hamden farmers had somewhat decreased from the earlier days; no longer were there county fairs on New Haven Green, with 120 yoke of oxen wending their slow queue toward the expected prize. Horses were replacing oxen for farm work. Cows were as numerous as ever, for New Haven used nearly 6,000 quarts of Hamden milk a day, and there were at least 26 dairymen in the town. A New Haven company was innovating the centrifugal process of separating cream, and milk which did not contain $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent solid was being rejected.

The census report listed hay as Hamden's chief agricultural product. There had been a marked increase in fruit raising, particularly of apples. As far back as 1844, five hundred barrels a year were sold from the Jonathan Dickerman farm in Mount Carmel. Again in 1885, there was an unparalleled abundance. John Dickerman, quaintly but a little confusingly said: "Apple pomace, when pressed with straw, has become of recognized value for feeding stock, superior to all roots except potatoes, which should insure more care in preparing it, than has yet been bestowed."

Corn was still a favorite crop, and George Bradley developed some "Blunt's Prolific," one specimen of which he sent to the Paris Exposition. It consisted of one plant, stalk and root and nineteen fully developed ears. This exhibit was given honorable mention in a United States agricultural display.

WOOD

The first settlers in the wilderness which became Hamden found paramount use for wood, for their own

consumption and for sale or barter with others. They used it for fuel, fence building, charcoal, and brick-making. Saw mills were scattered all over the area, with at least one in every settled community. In 1886 there were four mills run by waterpower, three by horsepower, and one by steam in Hamden, devoted exclusively to cutting wood into stove lengths. Five- to eight-foot lengths were in demand in the New Haven market, where as many as one thousand cords were sold annually, with an equal amount of kindling. Prices on delivery were \$5 a cord for the soft woods, \$6 for oak, and \$8 for hickory.

The brickyards consumed nearly six thousand cords every year from Hamden woodlands. In 1885, Captain Crafts began to substitute bituminous coal, which he found to be cheaper. He also introduced brick-making machines, to replace the old hand-molding process, and dried the bricks on shelves instead of on the ground.

New uses for wood, beyond those of the earlier days, were for railroad ties, barrel hoops, wharfage piles, and building timber. There was an important sale of nut-bearing and shade trees. It was estimated at this time that there were seven thousand acres of woodland in Hamden.

Bazel Munson of Mount Carmel, direct descendant of Joel Munson, was engaged almost solely in the business of wood and charcoal. Horace Johnson of Hamden Plains was another important dealer, who marketed hundreds of cords of wood a year.

Tall trees growing near dwelling houses were considered a protection from lightning; and forest fires were a matter of anxious concern. There was a growing realization that some form of conservation of timber

should be put into effect. Trees then common in Hamden were:

oak	poplar	basswood	whitewood
chestnut*	ash	butternut	hickory
birch	maple	gum	pine
spruce	hemlock	mulberry	cedar
beech	elm	willow	

THE HAMDEN CENTENNIAL

The celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town was planned by a committee composed of the selectmen, Charles P. Augur, Walter Woodruff, and Thomas Cannon, and also of William P. Blake, Reverend Austin Putnam, Henry Munson, James J. Webb, Henry Tuttle, Ellsworth Cooper, Edwin Potter, Andrew J. Doolittle, and Leverett Dickerman. They were selected at the annual town meeting of 1885.

The third Tuesday in June, 1886, which was the anniversary of the first town meeting under the incorporation, was chosen for the exercises. Plans for the celebration included a procession of representatives of the formal organizations and manufacturing establishments of the town, historical addresses, music, a "collation" or luncheon for the guests, a loan exhibition of historical relics, and a town history to be edited by William P. Blake. The town appropriated \$1,000 to cover the expenses.

Mr. Blake, a professor at Yale and formerly connected with the University of Arizona, was an eminent

* Practically destroyed by a blight in 1917.

geologist and mineralogist. It was largely owing to his survey of the minerals of Alaska that the territory was purchased by the United States from Russia in 1867.

The commemorative exercises were held in Centerville, on the open lot north of Grace Episcopal Church. Three large tents were set up, one for the audience with seats for 1,500 people, and two for refreshment tables and benches, and a part of the grounds was designated as a parking space for vehicles. A large triumphal arch decorated with flags marked the entrance to the grounds. Stores were closed, and homes and other buildings decked out in bright flags and bunting.

Shortly after 10 A.M. on June 15, the procession started, led by the marshal, William E. Davis, and headed by the fifteen-piece Centerville Band. A line of carriages followed, bearing Governor Henry B. Harrison and other prominent men. Fifty members of the A. O. H. of Mount Carmel marched in full regalia, and gaily decorated freight wagons bore displays of products manufactured in Hamden. The cases of Whitney firearms, surmounted by the original model of Whitney's cotton gin, attracted much attention; and there were many ice wagons and milk carts. The historical exhibit was crowded all day.

Exercises in the tent began with the singing of the Doxology, and the prayer by Reverend Mr. Putnam. A chorus of 150 trained voices and a four-piece orchestra furnished the music, and a Centennial hymn, written for the occasion by James Payne, was sung. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Blake, Governor Harrison, Honorable N. D. Sperry, who was a Representative in Congress, and Professor Simeon E. Baldwin, afterwards Governor.

The "collation" which was served the two hundred guests was described by the *Journal and Courier* as consisting of "cold ham, turkey, chicken, tongue, beans, cake, native strawberries, ice cream, lemonade and coffee," after which eight hundred children from the Sunday Schools marched about the grounds, singing their songs. In the afternoon, addresses were made by Father Hugh Mallon, Reverend L. H. Higgins, Reverend D. McMullen, Henry Tuttle, and James J. Webb; and brief remarks by Lucius and Julius Ives, Elihu Dickerman, and Honorable A. Heaton Robertson. Eli Whitney, 2d, and his son Eli, were on the platform with the speakers.

Governor Harrison complimented the people on their beautiful town and its splendid history. Mr. Sperry's long address on the history of the flag, as reported by the *New Haven Register*, "was filled with patriotic fire that seemed to spread among the audience, and when Mr. Sperry got through, they all felt prouder of their country than ever."

The Centennial celebration was one of the last public appearances of Reverend Austin Putnam, pastor for forty-nine years of the Whitneyville Church, and his prayer was one of the best-remembered parts of the ceremonies. He said in part:

Almighty God, our God and the God of our fathers, we come before Thee in thankful and joyful acknowledgment of Thy great goodness to us and to those who have gone before us in this place; to all who have lived in this town from the beginning of the history until now. We give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for the good laws which Thou hast given us, and for this pleasant spot where our lot is cast. We thank Thee that the lines are fallen to us in such pleasant places, and that we have so good a heritage. We thank

Thee that in Thy good providence we see this day.
. . . And we humbly ask for those who shall come
after us in this town, the same blessings that we have
asked for ourselves. In their possession, and under their
care and culture, may this bright spot grow brighter and
brighter till time shall be no more.

Professor Baldwin said that a member of the Good-year family had informed him that the property on which the celebration was taking place, had been owned by the Goodyears for more than two hundred years. He then said,

As we stand here on land that today belongs to Hamden, and one hundred years ago was in the jurisdiction of New Haven, no one can congratulate you on your century of independent existence more than the citizens of the mother town. The true source of all the strength of American institutions lies in the number of its self-governing political communities. . . . We have a history to be proud of as Americans, and we here in Connecticut have a longer history of our own to be proud of. The institutions for which our fathers lived, and if need be died, we do well to commemorate on days like this. A hundred years of growing population and spreading industry, a hundred years during which no invading army has touched this soil; these things make up for Hamden a history that may not be a dramatic or brilliant one, but it is something better. It speaks of happy homes, of busy mill wheels, of self-supporting churches, of schools open to the poorest at the expense of all. This is the history of Hamden for a hundred years, and anniversaries like these teach us to recognize the blessings that we possess.

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Let this day serve to remind us that we have received from our fathers a great inheritance, in institutions that are worth more than property—institutions on which all property depends—and this inheritance it

is our business to transmit to our children. Let it be ours to do what we can to leave to future times unimpaired the heritage of freedom and self-government which is the ancient glory of the towns of Connecticut.

THE CENTENNIAL HYMN

Written by Deacon James Payne, and sung to
the Tune of "America"

Let every heart rejoice
With instrument and voice,
On this glad day.
Tribute of praise we bring
To God, our sovereign King;
With Thy protecting wing
Defend, we pray.

One hundred years have fled,
And numbered with the dead
The true and brave.
Yet, for our common weal,
We'll emulate their zeal,
And to our God appeal,
Our country save.

May Hamden ever be
Worthy of Liberty
Our fathers won;
Let coming history tell
Our parts we acted well;
And may our sons excel
What we have done.

Part IV

Only the Giant Sleeps

PART IV

ONLY THE GIANT SLEEPS

1886 - 1936

TURNING their faces to the dawn of a new century of civic life for Hamden, the minds of the townspeople still lingered on historic and commemorative thoughts. The Whitneyville Church, saddened by the death, in September, 1886, of the pastor who had led them so firmly for nearly fifty years, held a joint ceremony with the teachers and pupils of the Whitneyville School. They planted maples along Whitney Avenue, naming them for prominent members of church and community. The Putnam elm was set out on the lawn west of the church, nearly opposite the pulpit window.

A monument to the soldiers and sailors of four wars was set up on East Rock in June, 1887, erected after years of planning by the city of New Haven. The monument, 110 feet high, is surmounted by a figure of the Angel of Peace. The height of the Rock here is 405 feet. Visible for miles, particularly from the harbor, it is fitting that the eye should be drawn to the imposing height of the red mountain, named "Roodenbergh" in 1614 when first sighted by white men.

The new era of municipal progress initiated by the Centennial celebration brought a final decision on the question of a town hall, a decision that had been put off from year to year, ever since 1869. A petition signed by forty citizens requested that an adequate building

be constructed at once, "with room for town meetings and accommodations for town prisoners." The town meeting which acted favorably upon the question was held on January 2, 1888. The old Centerville House site on the northwest corner of Whitney and Dixwell Avenues, was purchased by the town for \$1,300 from William Ives, whose name was not so familiar as that of the earlier owners, Jesse Goodyear and Charles Dickerman.

D. R. Brown was the architect, but the original plan was drawn by William P. Blake. It called for a large room, 100 by 50 feet, for meetings, besides offices and an entrance hall. A room on the upper floor, 50 by 30 feet, was rented to Day Spring Masonic Lodge for \$125 a year. The basement, where the cells for prisoners were located, measured 60 by 32 feet. The original plan was for "no waterworks or plumbing, as water can be obtained from several excellent wells on the premises, and if it is desirable, a large cistern can be built to receive and store the rainwater from the roof." The total cost of the building was \$12,872.88.

The parking problem was sometimes troublesome, even in 1888. Town meetings always were well attended, as they could be depended upon to furnish excitement. It was suggested that fifty cedar hitching posts be set up, on the streets abutting the town hall property, but horsesheds were built instead behind the town hall, and they remained there for many years.

There may be no significance in the fact that the next vote on liquor license was so decisively—209-121—in favor of license, but the new sheds were found to be very convenient for other purposes than shelter for horses and buggies. On Election Day many a voter would be spirited outside the hall, to receive, under

cover of the sheds, refreshment and persuasion to vote in a certain way. One old ne'er-do-well used to loiter about the polls until some watchful party worker would ask, "Have you voted yet, Sam?" He would drawl wistfully, "Well, I haven't had much *encouragement* yet." After he had been escorted to the sheds and "encouraged," he would come back, wiping his mouth with his sleeve, to cast his ballot. There were politicians who worried a little about such votes as Sam's—which way *did* he actually vote? So "Gib" Benham figured out a scheme in which he promised the voter, "I'll give you two dollars; a dollar now and the other when my candidate wins in the election." In time the sheds became thickly papered with vivid and torn circus posters. Many were the types of conveyance housed there—wagons, buggies, phaetons, concords, and sleighs!

The auditorium of the old town hall was never decorated, the walls were plain brick, but it was nevertheless a joyous meeting place for many occasions of a social and town-wide nature. Periodically the firemen presented an entertainment, with local people as the performers, before a highly appreciative audience, whose noisy enthusiasm inspired the participants to do their best. On dance nights there were not the complicated steps of today, but waltzes, two-steps, the Virginia Reel, and the square dance. Children would run among the dancers or sleep on the chairs, while their parents enjoyed themselves. The orchestra was composed of a piano player, a violinist, and a drummer. Most of the dancers were young people, but middle-aged and older people also took part. Everyone danced with everyone else, and hearty fun and laughter were shared by all.

When there were suppers, the long tables were set up the length of the hall, heavily laden with home-

cooked food in irresistible plenty. Certain famous cooks were always urged to bring samples of their specialties, and seats near these toothsome viands were a matter of competition by the knowing ones. Beans and other hot foods were kept warm over the blasts of heat from the floor registers at the front of the hall. Those were the days when cooking and baking were arts perfected in every household—probably nothing on the tables came from the store, except the coffee. The ham was home-cured, the butter was churned at home, and the biscuits, bread, cake, and pie were something to dream about, both before and after eating.

Even today, town meeting can provide a packed house and fiery speeches on all sides of vital questions, but the atmosphere is changed. In the past, in the crowded breathless sessions, everybody in the hall knew everybody else. A conspicuous number of public-spirited men spoke fervently with earnest and fearless purpose to an audience of friends and neighbors, all of whom were vitally interested in, and affected by, the way the town was run.

They take their place in history as definite and essential figures in the building of the town. Many of them were comparatively unlettered, a fact that detracted in no way from their force or influence. There will always be a need for citizens who are not afraid to give a straightforward expression of opinion in public, who are interested in their neighbors and their town, and who will make the town meeting—as it was in the warm, happy, hearty days of the old town hall—an occasion to shake hands in a sociable way with people from all parts of the town. From the farthest corners of the community, the citizens should be drawn together in a real spirit of coöperation toward a common end.

THE MOUNT CARMEL CHILDREN'S HOME

James Ives died in 1888. His residence, once the Mount Carmel Young Ladies Female Seminary, was converted into a semiprivate institute for orphan and dependent children. About twenty-five children of Protestant families were taught and cared for, under a matron and a board of trustees. Children were received from all parts of the state, and one year's report showed a variety of contributions, ranging from \$1 to \$25 and coming from 360 individuals and church societies, along with donations of toys, bedding, mittens, stereoscope and views, pictures, piano, the cutting of children's hair, five gallons of linseed oil, casters for eleven beds, discount on drugs, subscription to the *New Haven Register*, two turkeys, gauge for windmill, nine needle books, and pocket money for the children.

This institution was included as a part of the town school system, until the Community Center (New Haven Orphan Asylum) came to Whitneyville and the Home was absorbed by them.

BLIZZARD OF 'EIGHTY-EIGHT

The blizzard of 1888 was an experience in which Hamden shared; travelers deserted their sleighs, which were quickly buried in snow, and took refuge in near-by homes. Depth of snow, especially in 12- and 15-foot drifts, isolated households for days. Almon Deane was the Mount Carmel railroad station agent at the time, and under the lee of the church horsesheds which a huge drift almost concealed, he managed to rescue the school-teacher from across the street, where she was helplessly marooned.

THE BLUE HILLS PARK

John H. Dickerman, who wrote a history of Mount Carmel Parish in which he extolled the beauties of the Sleeping Giant, opened a park upon its summit and advertised it as follows:

Blue Hills Park will be opened July 4, 1888. A Carriage drive to the summit, requiring two miles of easy grade, has been constructed, which with tables and outfit in pleasant groves on the top, will be offered free on that day to all who will join in a basket picnic. Your presence is cordially invited. The views embrace an area of more than one hundred miles in extent, covering the Sound and Long Island south, and Mountains Tom and Holyoke north. Entrance to Park one mile east of the "Steps," one and one-half miles from Mt. Carmel Railroad Depot. J. H. DICKERMAN, Mt. Carmel, Conn.

This celebration was attended by two hundred people, and fifty vehicles drove up to the top—an accomplishment never before or since effected.

This event marked the beginning of an ever-increasing use of the mountain as a park, where many people went for the enjoyment of its natural beauty.

There were a number of cottages, during the course of the years, on the mountain. The oldest, on the fourth mountain, was built by Jonathan Dickerman in 1875. Both John Heaton and Willis Cook built on the head of the Giant, carrying up all the material for their cottages by hand. Mr. F. A. Park had, on the third mountain, a beautiful trap-rock house covered with English ivy. The veranda extended out to the edge of the cliff, which at that point had a sheer drop of 125 feet.

The Brockett-Mann cottage was the most familiar to mountain climbers. It stood just beyond Mr. Park's, and was a white one-room wooden building, with a porch covering one side. There was a unique cable and windlass which carried a weighted pail to and from a spring of water 325 feet below. Through the generosity of the owners, countless people made use of the place, from which could be seen an unparalleled view to the southward beyond New Haven to Long Island in the Sound. This spot on the mountain was once marked by a government coast signal station. It had a tower more than 30 feet high, with a platform where one might stand to obtain the fullest enjoyment of the view.

New Haven colonists said in 1729 that the mountain should be a "commons forever," and the paternal old Giant, sleeping though he may appear to be, bears perpetually living beauty of wild life for free enjoyment to all who care to rest or play upon his ample bosom.

BOATS ON LAKE WHITNEY

Another recreation, boating on Lake Whitney, was gaining in popularity. Day's boathouse did a large business in the renting of canoes and boats. Before the raising of the dam in 1860, Yale men used to row up Mill River and carry their shells over the dam and into the lake. The eighteen-eighties and 'nineties were the days of Yale regattas on the course which started at the bridge above the Whitneyville Church and ended at the Davis Street bridge. All of Yale's great oarsmen of that time received a part of their training there, and many a race was rowed down the lake. On such an exhibition day, the lake road (Lovers' Lane) would be

jammed with spectators, colorful with the light dresses of the ladies, and the blue coats, white trousers, and the stiff straw hats banded with blue ribbon, of the men. There were vendors of peanuts, popcorn, flags, and balloons, and a great amount of cheering besides. One race was noted for the costumes of the contestants; in one shell were men with long black whiskers (which were false), and the opposing crew wore high silk hats! In 1900 Yale built a boathouse on the east bank of the lake, across from Day's.

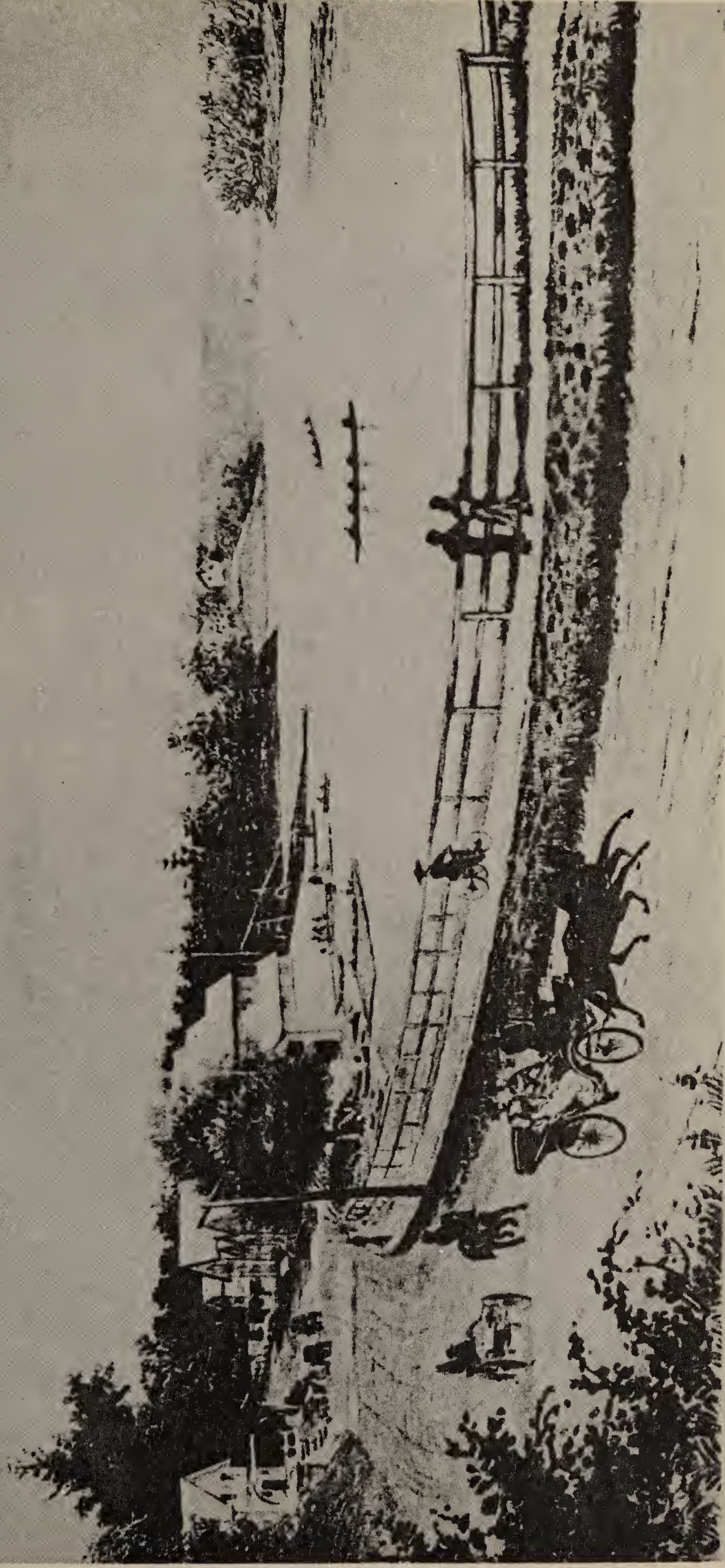
After the New Haven Country Club had acquired the property along the east shore in 1901, groups of young people on their way to a dance there, occasionally embarked at Day's boathouse in canoes which were decorated with bright paper lanterns, and glided to their destination up the smooth waters of the lake to the tune of strumming mandolins and guitars.

When Frederick D. Grave lived in a wooden house on the corner of Davis Street and Lovers' Lane, he moored near the bridge a dark green pleasure boat lettered on the end *Leonora*. He also kept two beautiful deer in a long runway under the heavy foliage on the bank overlooking the lake. In spring, the Country Club bank was literally covered with thick pink laurel. In winter, tobogganists flew down the double hills and skimmed over the lake, and skaters came from the boathouse up to the Whitney Avenue bridge.

THE TOWN'S BUSINESS

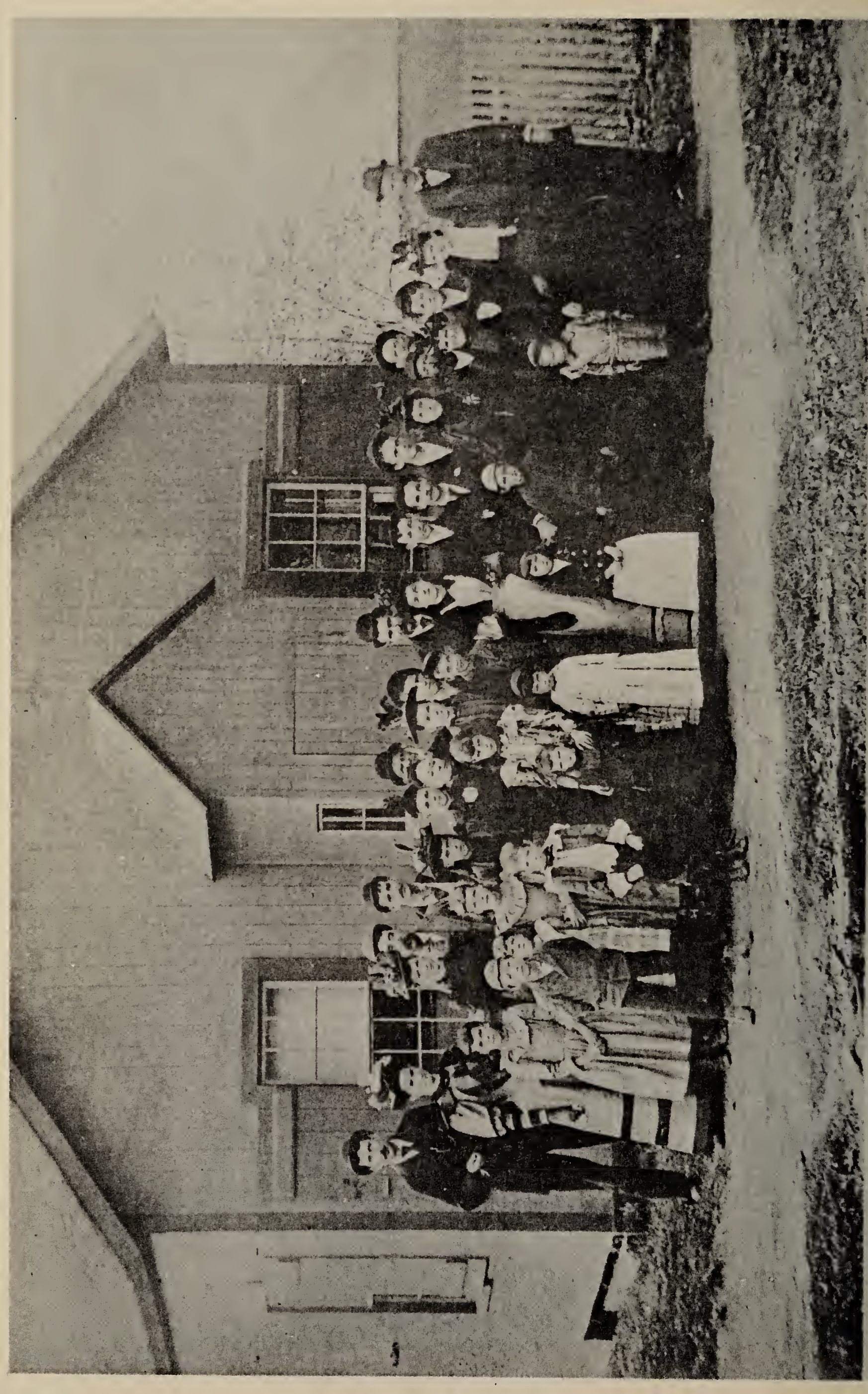
A town meeting held in 1890, disturbed at the comparatively large sum (\$1,406.44) which had been drawn from the treasury by the selectmen in the previous year, named a committee of three—John T. Henry, Henry

LAKE WHITNEY



Showing Day's Store and Boathouse, and the Old Icehouses

Gift of Arnold G. Dana



St. John the Baptist's First Meetinghouse

Gift of James J. McGuire

Tuttle, and Samuel Crafts—to make an investigation. The committee published their findings in a ten-page report. As to roads, Mr. Crafts said that dirt was scraped into a pile in the center, to be washed back again into the gutter, and that in some places the gutters were higher than the road bed. “You cannot build a good road under water,” he said, adding, “there is nothing that discredits a town like bad roads, or helps it like good ones.” For a ten-hour day, \$4.50 seemed to him to be too much. Though work was supposed to be carried on only from March to September, there had been a charge for every month in the year. “Ten hours’ work done in December and January must some of it be done by faith and not by sight.”

Mr. Tuttle pointed out that one of the selectmen had sold the town 10,988 feet of plank and timber, a considerable portion of which was of inferior quality, not worth over half the price paid nor fit for use in bridges. He had also sold the town grain and feed at 10 to 30 cents a bag over the market price. In criticizing the management of the town farm, he said, “Many believe it would cost less to board the inmates at a first class hotel.”

Mr. Henry stressed the improper disbursement of funds. Some bills had been submitted to the town on ragged dirty pieces of paper, and some in illegible pencil marks. Most of these were “without form and void.” One bill did not even state to whom the town owed the money. Notes amounting to \$3,700 had been paid but not canceled. A local politician collected for bills marked “To Shovellers” and “Town of Hamden to Italian help and others, Dr.” In commenting on this one Mr. Henry indignantly declared, “this bill is just as incomprehensible to your committee as it would be were

it to read as follows, 'Town of Hamden to Turks and Infidels, Dr.' " Contrasting the amount paid to Hamden's selectmen with the payments made by Bethany, Cheshire, North Haven, and Wallingford (ranging from \$229 to \$682), he urgently recommended that the town publish each year a report of expenditures.

Another committee investigated "the doings of the Justices of the Peace, with power to call for persons and papers." They reported that a justice had failed for a whole year to submit his quarterly reports to the town treasurer. One man had been sent to jail twice and the justice had collected \$25.66 for costs when he had no jurisdiction, and the warrants did not show that the man was ever arrested or brought before him for trial. On one occasion a bond of \$200 was forfeited; the justice settled with the attorney for \$50 instead of the full amount, took \$46 as costs, and the town got \$4. "The state prison bird escaped from justice." After this report was submitted, the justice resigned.

HEALTH

Dr. Edwin Swift made his last health report in 1890, after he had been a practitioner in the town for nearly fifty years. In it he said,

The epidemic which during the last fall swept over Europe with such fearful fatality, appeared among us and continued with unabated violence until February, during which time it is believed scarcely a household escaped its influence, causing more deaths among us as well as elsewhere, than any epidemic of modern times. Its subsidence left many of its victims weak and diseased, some of whom have, after weeks or months of suffering, been obliged to succumb to the fell destroyer.

Dr. George Joslin, who came to Mount Carmel from Vermont in 1889 and succeeded Dr. Swift as health officer two years later, said that there were from three hundred to four hundred cases of the ague, and that malaria was so common that New Haven people had a saying, "Go to Hamden if you want to die." The New Haven Water Company bought property along the lakeside and cleaned it up in an effort to deal with the mosquitoes, thus greatly lessening the prevalence of malaria.

ROADS, BRIDGES, AND ANOTHER NEGATIVE VOTE

Travel on some of the roads of the town was hampered by bushes and branches along the sides, and in 1891 the selectmen were instructed to clear the roads on both sides for a distance of twelve feet from the center of the road.

An examination of Ithiel Town's covered bridge in 1886 had appeared to satisfy the town authorities that its timbers were firm and sound and good for fifty years more with proper care of roof and foundations. Nevertheless repairs made in 1890 were not satisfactory, and an appropriation of \$5,500 was authorized for an iron structure "of sufficient width and strength for loaded teams to pass each other, with 6 foot sidewalks, suitable railings, etc."

Once again, Hamden was given the opportunity to take advantage of the state law of 1866 permitting the formation of a single school district for the town, and the motion to do so was defeated, 60 to 137, indicating decisively that the townspeople were still content with the district committeemen and the board of school visitors.

BUSINESS CHANGES

The Hamden Manufacturing Company, organized by Horace Shares and Charles and Jared Benham in 1889, took over the Auger Shop, and employed about sixty men.

Mr. Witte was making straw board boxes in Mount Carmel to be used by local manufacturers as containers for small hardware and other goods.

The Winchester Repeating Arms Company, which had just absorbed the Whitney Arms Company, was permitted to build eight magazines for the storage of gunpowder, each to hold not more than 250 kegs, with 25 pounds in each keg, and not nearer to the street than 800 feet, in a wooded area between Putnam Avenue and what is now Treadwell Street, a road which the company constructed as the north boundary of their land. In 1890 this street was designated as "the highway from Old Piney Road northeast to Pine Swamp."

John Dickerman sold 60,000 hickory hoops of 7 foot length, to be used on barrels of ingot copper. The coopers came to Mount Carmel from New York in 1890, and made the hoops near where the poles were cut. Poles were not again in demand, and the trees were allowed to grow for cord wood.

In the 1880's, a three-story building had been erected in front of the Mount Carmel depot by John Andrews and Cecil Burleigh on the Bellamy tavern site. It had a grist mill and saw mill, and Mr. Andrews conducted a business in flour, feed, coal, and wood. The upper part of the building, used for public meetings and entertainments, was known as Andrews Hall. Here John Andrews' son George, who later succeeded Ellsworth Cooper as town clerk, conducted a general store.

George Andrews kept a diary, and its notations give a graphic, colorful picture of this decade, showing the life of a typical Connecticut small-town farmer. It may have been a simple life, but it was busy and exciting. One January the entries ran:

Sleigh goes well on the snow. Rain heavy enough to overflow Todd's bridge. Bazil Munson died. School meeting, am chosen committee. Let team to Chauncey Ives for Pinafore, \$2. Sereno Cook bought a new horse. I bought carpet and three new chairs for the parlor. Thermometer at Mr. Hitchcock's store 22 below 0. Had the cow butchered. Couple broke through the ice at Clark's Pond. Carted manure to young orchard. Measured wood in Tom Swamp for Wales Dickerman. Go to church annual meeting in evening. Had horse sharpened. Center lamp in the church fell down. In a.m. go to Meriden and buy lamps for church, \$28. Strawride to Charles Allen's.

In October, 1891, Mr. Andrews did not mean that he "fixed" the election, when he wrote, "Annual town meeting. I am moderator. Result Republican."

In 1892, he recorded the burning of the town-farm barn at 2 A.M. The school committee sold the old No. 3 schoolhouse at auction to Sereno Cook for \$60. In one day he attended the funerals of three well-known men—Lucius Ives, Dudley Waite, and Charles Dickerman. He noted that Reverend George Sherwood Dickerman, who was raised in the Mount Carmel Church, filled the pulpit there in the summer of 1892.

The year 1893 was marked throughout by violent storms. George Andrews said in May: "Hard rain. Part of Ives and Miller dam carried away. Washout near Brooksvale." In July the icehouses in Whitney-

ville were struck by lightning and burned, and Arthur Woodruff's house was struck; in August, "very severe rain and wind storm. Trees uprooted and blown down."

In the following year, a telephone was installed in the Andrews store, one of the earliest in the town. It was attached to the wall, had a wet battery, and a crank on the side to turn in making calls. Mr. Andrews traded bicycles with Joe Maley, went to Prospect with the children for blackberries, drove to see the gypsies, went fishing on Bantam Lake, to the cider mill, and the temperance concert. His wife Mary went to sewing society at Mrs. H. G. Dickerman's for the afternoon and evening. The church held a fair, and Mary's Sunday School class presented her with a Bible.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Catholic families in the southwestern part of town found attendance at St. Mary's in Mount Carmel a great inconvenience. In 1893 services were held in the home of James Cashman on Alstrum Street. A small barnlike building nearby, originally a bicycle clubhouse used by the Star Cycle Club and later the property of Constable Malachi Shannahan, was purchased from him by Willis Benham and given to the church group, along with a cash present of \$100. One of the parishioners, when asked how the gift happened to be made, replied, "Well, Malachi was a Catholic and a Democrat, and Mr. Benham was a prominent Protestant and a Republican, but"—gesturing with his first and second fingers crossed—"they were just like that!" When the parish outgrew these quarters, an imposing church was built in 1919, just over the boundary line in New Haven.

TRANSPORTATION

The stage lines had continued to run in competition with the horsecars, and apparently they had suffered little loss of patronage to the railroad; but the advent of electric trolleys proved too competitive. Brainard Ives's Mount Carmel stage ran until 1896, but then yielded to the faster and cheaper method of travel. In 1893 the selectmen appointed a committee to protect the town's interest in reference to the building of electric railways along the highways. On Dixwell and Whitney Avenues the trolleys followed the same course that the horsecars had used. The State Street line was established in 1894, and in 1896 the Whitney Avenue line reached Whitneyville center.

One of the elegant modes of travel in this period was still horse-drawn—the tallyho, sometimes tandem and sometimes four-horse. James H. Webb drove one, and it was a popular means of getting to ball games.

SCHOOLS

The acting school visitors in 1894, Elias Dickerman and Father Winters—reported that regular teachers' meetings had been held, in which papers were read by members of the group, on topics taught in the schools. One of them dealt with normal-school methods, and it aroused the visitors' enthusiastic interest. But the obvious need of special training for all teachers in the town alike, and in the district system the probability that a trained teacher would be followed by one who was not, made the board despair of a progressive change in teaching methods. At this time the total expense of the schools was \$6,327.12, about one third of which was

paid by the state, leaving the town's share at \$4,270.63. This was not much better than in 1887, when the town paid \$3,869 for the same number of schools, manned by sixteen teachers. Apparently town sentiment responded favorably to the reports on the normal-school methods; for the next town meeting voted at long last, by the close margin of 183 to 177, for the consolidation of the school districts.

In the annual town report of 1895 appears the first official report of the newly elected nine-member school committee. It deplored the congestion in District No. 13 (Highwood), where 173 pupils were accommodated in two rooms. It was estimated that \$9,000 would be needed for the following year. The nineteen teachers were being paid at the rate of \$8 a week. The members of the first school board were: John Winters, Arthur Woodruff, John Hindinger, William J. Brewster, Henry Stadtmiller, Charles F. Clarke, Hervey Potter, Sereno Cook, and Cullen B. Foote.

THE WHITNEYVILLE CHURCH

The one hundredth anniversary of the Whitneyville Church was celebrated in 1895. The pastor, Charles F. Clarke, delivered the historical address; Deacon James Payne read a historical poem; and Nathan Gorham, aged seventeen, a descendant of the first pastor, Abraham Alling, recited an original verse. Judge S. E. Munson, representing United Church on New Haven Green, spoke on "*Our Lineage*" and pointed out that the original members of the East Plains congregation came from United Church's predecessor, the Fair Haven Church. Reverend Charles A. Dinsmore, the only living ex-pastor, spoke on *Some Distinctive Characteristics*

of the *Whitneyville Church*. Reverend George Dusinberre spoke in his capacity as pastor of the Hamden Plains Methodist Church, as "your successor on Hamden Plains." Another original poem was read by Charles Merriman. A display of historical relics was shown in the old parsonage on the church property. A new parsonage, a short distance down Whitney Avenue, had been built in 1889. There was a note of sadness at the Centennial, caused by the death of Eli Whitney, 2d, who was to have been one of the speakers.

The Boys' Brigade flourished at this time. Sponsored by the church, its activities, reminiscent of the Rectory School, were of both a religious and a military flavor. A church leaflet, *Whitneyville Tidings*, dated February, 1897, speaks of the organization in these words:

The Boys' Brigade have elected officers for three months, Pres., Burton A. Davis, Secretary, Fred Cook, Treasurer, H. Truman Moulton. The company was visited on a recent evening by Brigadier General Perigo, Captain Todd, and others, and upon their invitation joined with Co. H, of the Epworth Church, in attendance at the regimental drill at the armory. They were praised for the excellence of their drill.

In March, this notice appeared:

Interest in the Boys' Brigade is growing. Dr. H. H. Smith has been appointed commandant, and Mr. W. F. Smith Captain. The former has charge of the Bible Class work and the religious interests of the organization, and the latter is at the head of the company as a military organization. The boys show an increased sense of responsibility. All boys between 12 and 21 are wanted.

It was the time-honored custom in this church for one of the deacons to preach whenever the pastor was on

his vacation. One of Eli Whitney's daughters was married in the church in 1898.

The Ecclesiastical Society instituted a radical change in their method of raising funds by abandoning the pew-rent system and substituting for it a system of pledges with weekly offerings. It was boasted that "this society has a habit of keeping its deficits promptly cleared up and carrying no debts over." The year 1897 marked the end of the Society, when it voted unanimously to transfer its property to the church and to dissolve its own organization. By an amendment to the church's constitution, three trustees assumed some of the duties which the Society had had. The Mount Carmel Ecclesiastical Society did not transfer its property and responsibilities to its church until twenty years later.

THE HAMDEN GRANGE

George Andrews' diary tells of many Grange meetings and of the rehearsals for the degrees. The Grange was a flourishing organization in Hamden in the 1890's, owning its own building on Dixwell Avenue, Centerville, to the west of the Grace Church rectory. Its ritual had particular appeal to farmers, with its personification of Pomona, Flora, and Ceres. The active membership included the well-known names of Munson, Wooding, Dickerman, Peck, Caldwell, Beers, Beardsley, Andrews, Clark, Cook, and Mathews.

The members held debates, exhibits, box festivals, cake auctions, and fairs. They once presented a play called "Limb of the Law" in the town hall; and another called "Darkey Wood Dealer," both proving so popular that they were performed in Wallingford and

Woodbridge as well. There was much friendly visiting of Hamden Grange with the Granges of neighboring towns, including Orange, East Haven, North Haven, Cheshire, and Stratford. Hamden members once went in a body to the cattle show at Mad River. When the group visited Woodbridge, "all go, including children."

They had a turkey supper for "ladies' night," and ice cream as a treat for "overseer's night"; they gave a dinner set to the Andrews and a chair to the Tuttles, and all in all furnished a medium for happy, friendly good times in their own and neighboring towns.

George Andrews attended many auctions and cattle shows in this period. His father sold the store to Burton Hoskins. He traded horses with Neas Warner—"my white horse for his black mare." He butchered two pigs; grafted apple trees; Charley the hired man was arrested again; there were trips to the woods for arbutus; and other activities were plowing, fence mending, housecleaning, and beating carpets at the church. "Went spearing with Chauncey, only caught 3 small suckers and a pickerel." "Jury Common Pleas in morning. Prayer meeting in evening [where the pleas were perhaps uncommon]." "Box of Larkin soap came, with 4 chairs, brush and comb, and flag." Also, he took a bicycle trip with Al Deane to Branford and Guilford.

MACADAMIZED STREETS

A survey of Dixwell Avenue from the New Haven line out to the Jared Bassett place had been accepted, and the town voted to improve it "for such distance as may be possible by State and County appropriations together with \$880 from the town treasury." A legis-

lative act of 1897 brought state aid for the three arterial roads of Hamden—Dixwell, Whitney, and State Street. No sooner had Dixwell Avenue been macadamized than residents along Whitney Avenue demanded the same; and in spite of the efforts of the west side of the town to defeat the appropriation toward it, they were no match in voting strength for united Whitneyville, Centerville, and Mount Carmel. When the victory for Whitney Avenue was won in a noisy town meeting, Bela Mann had the Web Company's whistle blown loud and long in celebration. For years thereafter, whenever Highwood or Hamden Plains people promoted a sectional scheme for their corner of the town, someone would jokingly say, "Bela Mann will blow his whistle on you again."

A special town meeting accepted the offer of Robert Dickerman and others to raise \$3,200 by subscription toward hardening Circular Avenue, and the selectmen were authorized to borrow enough to complete the work. To safeguard the town's interest, the meeting voted that no contract be let and no work done until the full amount subscribed had been paid into the town treasury. This road was a great benefit to farmers and market gardeners in the Dunbar section.

The selectmen named all the streets branching from the three main highways, and signs were erected at the corners. Coming down Whitney Avenue, street names which derived from prominent families are noticeable: Tuttle, Todd, Sherman, Woodruff, and Ives in Mount Carmel; Treadwell, Putnam, Augur, and Blake in Whitneyville, and Davis in honor of John H. Davis who was at that time first selectman. Main Street, in the extreme western part of the town, is not a main street and never was—it is a typical narrow country

road profusely bordered in summer with pink wild roses, and in autumn with tall brilliant purple asters.

Babcock Hill in Whitneyville was cut down, and hills on the Hartford Turnpike were graded. Watering troughs were set up in Whitneyville and Ivesville. The tax rate at this time was 15 mills. The Hamden town court was founded in 1897, with Fred Tuttle of Centerville as its layman judge.

THE SPANISH WAR

The Spanish War drew some Hamden men into enlistment. Several officers of the Connecticut Second Regiment and many men went to other cities to get into regiments that were going to the front. No list of Hamden men who were in the war is available. The names of several who were living at the time of the sesquicentennial were Frank Blake, George Brundage, Joseph Breton, Marion Holmes, Alex Langtry, Jacob Moehl, William Reader, and Joseph Webb.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Republican control in Hamden was so consistent that a Democratic victory in 1899 was a distinct shock to many. George Andrews probably did not mean to link the two events when he wrote, "Democratic victory, Charles Warner, Pat Nolan—Republican ticket all thrown out. First heavy frost." Nevertheless, it was a frost for the Republicans! The vote for representative was a tie, and a special election was called for the following day, when Dwight Mix, the brother of Norris Mix, won by a single vote. Jared Benham, the defeated candidate, was "bedfast with pneumonia," and could not

canvass the town to whip up votes. Mr. Mix's supporters used a great number of horses and buggies to get in the back-country vote.

While these exciting events were taking place about him, George Andrews was getting a load of leaves for the barn, attending a husking bee, whitewashing the kitchen, and cleaning the well. He set 110 of Uncle William's duck eggs, and 13 brown leghorns. He sat up with his sick father. He found a calf with the yellow cow in the pasture, and brought them home. He traded cows with Will Goodsell, and the Goodsell cow he sold to Lorenzo Peck for \$19. He drew off the vinegar. A new pastor was selected for the Mount Carmel Church, Reverend Howard Mudie, at a salary of \$700 and parsonage. There came "a snow and blow, about as hard a storm as we have had since '88. Drifted 5 feet high in front of barn and the shed full. Shovel snow most of the day. Go to C. Clark's on horseback."

Dr. Henry H. Smith became health officer in 1899, and his first report expressed regret that there was no supervision of the many dairies in the town. He said:

Hamden furnishes a large quantity of milk which is generally of excellent quality, but a regular inspection of the stables, the herds and the care of the milk, by someone who possessed the requisite knowledge and had authority to act, would undoubtedly result in improving its healthfulness and safety as a food for infants and children.

Milk was delivered in horse-drawn wagons. From a large can beside him, the driver would ladle out the amount requested into pitchers left on the front steps. An extra charge was made if the milk pitcher was covered.

In 1900, when President McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt were elected, Hamden was once more involved in a local tussle over a representative to the legislature. Sam Flight had secured the Republican nomination, but at the polls he was defeated by Edwin Potter, Democrat, who had a margin of 162 votes. This was, after the loss of the town election in the previous year, another stinging setback to the party which normally showed a majority of 300. Mr. Flight was a large market gardener in the Hamden Plains section, and owner of many acres of Hamden property. He once said that when he lived in the old house near the Brooks school, he could look in all directions and see no land but his own. He and Andrew Ure of the same locality were active in political and civic life, and both were market gardeners on a large scale. Each of them cultivated as much as twenty to twenty-five acres in strawberries alone. In the middle of June each employed a hundred pickers, many of them women, whose working hours were from seven in the morning to six-thirty in the evening. It was a common occurrence for them to send two carloads at a time to Boston. Many a local strawberry festival enjoyed unlimited quantities of delicious berries from their fields.

DUNBAR CHAPEL

Dunbar Chapel was built in 1900 on Dunbar Hill Road, somewhat north and across the street from the present firehouse. Sunday School classes had been held in the brick schoolhouse and were so well attended that the chapel was their natural outgrowth. The property on which it was built was owned jointly by Thomas

Thompson and Soren Hansen who stipulated that after the building ceased to be used for church purposes, it should revert to them. All the children of the neighborhood, to the average number of 20, attended every Sunday. Superintendents were John Gorham, Clinton Wetmore, and Hubert Warner. The 4-H clubs held meetings there. Bean suppers costing fifteen cents were often served, and were very well patronized. By 1932 conditions had changed, there was a difference of opinion among the ladies about the music, attendance dwindled, and the building was in great need of repair, so it was razed by the owners.

CHURCH LIBRARY

The Sunday School library in the Whitneyville Church, which was started when the church was built in 1834, was enlarged in 1897 by the addition of eighty-eight volumes.

MOUNT CARMEL LIBRARY

The Mount Carmel Free Public Library was officially organized in 1900, with Mrs. William Brewster the foremost leader; but two years before that time, Mrs. Homer Tuttle had seen in an agricultural magazine information about traveling libraries which were available to small communities, and through correspondence was able to secure such service for Mount Carmel. The books obtained from this source were kept and issued to readers at the post-office.

When the Library Association was formed, and books of their own began to accumulate, starting with thirty-seven from Mrs. Brewster, they were housed for a

while in a back room of the long building which used to stand on the southeast corner of Whitney Avenue and Ives Street. From there in 1907, the Association went into rented quarters on the second floor of the general store on the opposite corner, but rental costs were too heavy, and through the appeal of George Morton to the New Haven Water Company, who then owned the old No. 4 schoolhouse across the highway, the use of the building was obtained for library purposes.

The Mount Carmel Book Club was formed in 1900 by a group of about twenty ladies, under the leadership of Mrs. George Morton. Each year it has been the custom of this club, now numbering thirty, to buy a book for every member, reports upon which are made by them; and the volumes are thereafter given to the library.

HAMDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

When Reverend James E. Coley was rector of Grace Episcopal Church, he began a circulating library in the front parlor of the rectory, which was used as a young men's clubroom. Ellsworth Cooper discovered twenty-seven books packed away in the old town hall—possibly being saved to be sold for the benefit of the town poor, as in the earlier days! These twenty-seven volumes became the nucleus of the library. Howe and Stetson's store in New Haven donated fifteen volumes; Reverend Mr. Coley gave four, Norman Weaver five, and one was from William Raymond, then in charge of the old Rectory School which had become Hamden Hall. A lawn party given by the young men of the church raised \$8, and Mrs. William Brewster added

\$10. In September, 1901, the library was formally opened to the public and twenty-seven people subscribed for a year. A "Ladies' tea social" was held, and it raised \$15. The ladies had banded themselves together as the Ecclesiastical Embroidery Society, but now, having provided an almost unlimited amount of decorative embroideries for the church, they saw in library work a further field for their endeavor. Calling themselves the Wednesday Afternoon Thimble Club, they thenceforward plied their nimble fingers for the benefit of the library. From the parish house, the library was moved to Mr. Knox's shoe-repair shop, across the street from the Web Shop; from there to the room over Wilbur's Store, the former Temperance Hall; and thence to its present quarters.

SCHOOLS

Increased agitation for a new schoolhouse in Highwood led to a special town meeting in 1896, in which the motion for a new building was defeated. The school visitors reported,

Out of the 26 towns in the County, there were only three which paid a less amount per child than Hamden. The laws of our State have made a good common school education the birthright of every Connecticut boy and girl—an indispensable right which towns or even parents are not to set aside. Surely no public money is more wisely or profitably expended than that which provides good educational facilities for our youth. Viewed from a commercial standpoint alone, it is a good investment. The proximity of our town to the city, and the extension of the electric railroads, make it certain that the population will rapidly increase. What the character of the population shall be, is to be largely determined by the character of our schools.

But the appeal is made above all to the honor of the Town of Hamden to provide, and take pride in, schools that shall be good enough for the rich and poor alike.

Acting under a new law of the state, which provided that any town in which there was no high school should pay the tuition of scholars attending a high school in another town under proper authorization, twenty Hamden children were sent to Boardman High School in New Haven. Before this, some children had attended New Haven High School at the expense of their parents; and when the matter of tuition payment by the town was first voted upon, there was an illegal amendment which limited the amount to one one-hundredth of a dollar per pupil! The school board through its secretary, Charles F. Clarke, issued certificates for town-paid tuition; and many citizens who were opposed to this action petitioned for a special town meeting, alleging that he had "willfully and defiantly" overstepped his powers. At the crowded town meeting Mr. Clarke spoke first, in fervent exposition of his views. The opposing forces objected to the necessary rise in the tax rate, and claimed that it was an outrage to oblige childless taxpayers to pay for the education of other people's children. One speaker declared that the old red schoolhouse had been good enough for his grandfather, his father, and himself, and should be good enough for anyone. When the tumult had subsided and the vote was taken, the school board's action was sustained by a decisive margin.

School children had had practically no library advantages, either in the schools or out of them. The school budget of 1896 showed the receipt of \$5 from the state

toward school libraries. The report of the school visitors of 1897, speaking of the pitifully small number of books in the school "libraries," said,

Our town has no public library, and is so situated that it cannot be expected to have one which would be convenient to very many of our children. But the school libraries are very conveniently available. Moreover, it is of great advantage to have these libraries to use directly in connection with school work. One of the best things a teacher does for his scholars is to guide them in their general reading in such a manner as to cultivate a taste for the best literature. This is especially true in view of the great amount of worthless reading that so easily finds its way into the hands of the young. Each school is now provided with a globe, a dictionary, and some other books, the number of which it is hoped will be increased.

Under a legislative act of 1898 the school visitors purchased textbooks at the town's expense for those children whose parents were unable to buy them. Sometimes the books were only loaned, but the visitors felt that most parents could afford to provide their children with them, and that the parsimonious practice of some in expecting two of their children to share the same books was as foolish as it would be to have them share the same clothes. In 1898 a high figure of \$8,500 was spent for schools, and the school board's report said that the large amount spent for tuition of high-school pupils in New Haven would have gone far to establish schools of higher grade at home.

The town school board had no dull moments in its early years, and in time, lawsuits were something it could take in its stride. Complaints against the teacher in School No. 1 caused the school committee to conduct an investigation that terminated with the teacher's resig-

nation, which was accepted. Nevertheless she brought suit against the school visitors. They were defended with town funds, and won.

A minority group of disgruntled citizens continued to demand a return to the district system, and after two stormy town meetings devoted to the question, and subsequent doubts as to the legality of the votes taken in them, appeal was made to the Superior Court. The selectmen, who had been in disagreement with the school board, said in their 1901 report:

Your board of selectmen told the school board that it was ready to carry out the vote of October 1 on the consolidation of schools, but the school board did not consider the vote legal, so would not act. A petition of 259 citizens was presented to the selectmen asking that mandamus proceedings be brought to compel the school board to act. Proceedings were brought by your selectmen, the town furnishing counsel on both sides, and the Superior Court sustained the school board.

The much harassed school board felt disposed to say its last word on the subject, too, in its report to the town:

We cannot but believe it is time to say that the continual agitation on the question of returning to the old district system is very detrimental to the educational interests of the town. The suspense and uncertainty as to what is to be done from year to year, holds all true progress in check. Last year an attempt was made to vote on the question, but doubt as to what the vote meant was so prevalent that the matter was brought to the Superior Court for settlement. If for no other reason, it would be unfortunate for the town to vote in favor of the district system, because of the great field of litigation it would open. Before the vote could take effect, each district would have to take action and lay a tax, assessing polls and property for the last seven

years. The injunction still resting on the collection of the former tax further complicates the matter. The evident intent of the law is not to make it easy to go back. If all the zeal spent in this agitation should be turned toward the encouraging and fostering of our schools, they would rapidly improve under *any* system.

And that settled the question for all time!

Much justifiable fault had been found for years with the unhealthy location of No. 8 School in Whitneyville, close to the lake and below the street level. Eli Whitney, 3d, offered the town the plot of land at the northeast corner of Whitney Avenue and Davis Street for a school site. The old two-room brick school was condemned and sold to the Water Company, and while the new four-room building erected by George W. Warner was being prepared, classes were held in the Austin Putnam house, which burned to the ground soon after. The bell of the old Rectory School was presented to the new school by Dr. George Joslin, and a belfry was erected to house it. In commenting on the \$6,950 expended for schools, the school board said that it believed a larger sum might be wisely invested. "It is a policy ruinous to the well-being of the town to pauperize the public schools." Beginning in 1900, it urged free textbooks for all public-school children; and in 1902 the board reported with pride that the town made no mistake in voting to supply them.

In 1903, unsuccessful mandamus proceedings were brought by the school board against the town treasurer, who had refused to honor its warrants. The board was not satisfied to let the matter drop, and persuaded the legislature to amend the law governing the question, reporting with jubilation: "This has been done exactly

in accordance with the position of the Committee." In this year a new school in Hamden Plains was built by George Warner, who was low bidder for the contract. He discovered, after accepting the bid, that he had forgotten to figure in his labor! The businessmen from whom he bought his supplies generously made allowance for this in their prices to him!

The town officials had been at odds so often with the school board that some of them decided that the best way to curb it was to set up a board of finance, which they naïvely believed would have the power to hold the school board in check. At a Senate committee hearing, the proponents of the change did most of the talking. Afterwards, the Senate committee invited the secretary of the school board to appear before them and explain the board's position. He made it clear to them that the board's only concern was that the town's educational advancement be unhampered, and suggested that the proposed measure be amended by the addition of a protective clause. When the enemies of the school board heard that the bill had passed, they openly boasted, "Now the school board will have to toe the mark!"

But their elation soon gave way to consternation, for while the act creating a board of finance provided that the school board should submit to such board a yearly estimate of the expense of maintaining the schools, this estimate had to be reported to the annual town meeting without change. It could be accompanied merely with recommendations. The final clause of the act read, "nothing in this act shall be held to affect such powers of the town school board as they may have under the General Statutes of this State." "Why that spoils everything!" said one of the disgruntled ones, "We only wanted a finance board so as to hold down the school

board!" The first members of the board of finance were Edwin Potter, George Atwater, Friend Peck, Frank A. Warner, and Willis Benham. Their first printed estimate was issued in 1908.

The General Statutes provide that the school board shall maintain good schools, using its judgment as to place and time for them. It has charge of the schools, care and management of buildings and lands; it determines how many pupils shall be admitted to each school and their qualifications; provides transportation, if it is needed; employs and dismisses teachers; and suspends or expels incorrigible pupils.

The money appropriated by the town for the maintenance of schools is expended by and at the discretion of the school board, which may transfer unexpended balances from one item to another. In these actions it is not under the control of the board of finance. It has the sole right of deciding what rules and regulations will best promote the schools, and what may be taught.

The town on its part must meet the cost of maintaining proper schools, and the school board must carry out the work. For that purpose the board is clothed with large discretionary powers, in the exercise of which it is agent of the law and not of the town. The town is liable for the board's lawful contracts and obligations, and in this sense the board is agent of the town. The town is supreme in the selection of sites and their cost. In other words, a school board, upon its own motion, cannot build a new schoolhouse and charge the expense to the town; neither can the town build a schoolhouse unless the plans are approved by both state and local school boards.

A test case was soon at hand in connection with the new school for Highwood. The school board submit-

ted the following estimate of school expense: \$12,500 for grade schools, \$2,000 for high-school tuition, and \$9,000 for the Highwood school. The board of finance struck out the \$9,000 and recommended that no new building be erected. Yet the State Board of Health had condemned the old school as a nuisance and forbidden its use beyond the school year. In the call for the town meeting the proposed appropriation for a new Highwood school was not included; and when the meeting voted to build the school, an injunction was sworn out, alleging that the want of notice in the call made the vote illegal. So another town meeting was called, and the school board was authorized to build on whatever site it might select. Thereupon another injunction was issued, on the lack of a two-thirds vote to change the site. Because it was so manifestly the will of the town that the schoolhouse be built, the school board went to law and won both cases, the Superior Court upholding the legality of all the town votes on the subject. The Morse Street property was sold, and the new school was built on Dixwell Avenue.

The secretary of the school board was the pastor of the Whitneyville Church at the time of his accession to it, but in the meantime, in reverse order to Reverend Austin Putnam's change of professions, he had left the ministry for the practice of law. Once in a heated discussion in town meeting, the pastor of the Hamden Plains Church expressed the opinion that Mr. Clarke took the school board to law repeatedly, in order to make business for himself. Mr. Clarke replied, "If everyone did as he ought to, there would be no need for *either* ministers or lawyers."

The schools still were being inspected by visitors, one of them invariably a clergyman. In their reports often

appeared detailed comments on the teachers, of whom there were then twenty-six.

Her work has given satisfaction to an unusual degree.

.

Her thoroughness of work is eminently worthy of remark.

.

Miss Blandina Dickerman has a model school, the children are in perfect accord with the teacher, who has a gift of interesting them and teaching the little tots, that is charming to behold.

.

This school prospers under the diligent and winsome care of Miss Dorman.

Father Dullard praised when praise was due, but he could censure too. Some of his criticisms were:

The work in this school for the past year was not particularly good. There seemed to be a restlessness on the part of the scholars, and a most annoying habit of asking unnecessary questions, the answering of which consumed valuable time and was detrimental to good discipline.

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Whilst praise is due to the higher and primary grades, the same cannot be said of the intermediate grade of this school. It seems that it was in a state of chaos for the first two terms, and this was partially due no doubt to the two new inexperienced teachers who proved themselves totally incapable of maintaining discipline or order.

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Some parents severely chastise their children at home, but will not allow the teacher to touch them at school. This is a most ignorant and sad mistake. The teacher must sometimes administer rebuke and discreet chastisement.

It is safe to assume that the teachers opened the annual town report with some anxiety, to see what the school visitors had written for the whole town to read! Sometimes the remarks about the teachers were accompanied with comments upon the buildings.

Miss Elizabeth Fury not only uses the methods of the State Normal School, but has a thorough knowledge of what they mean and makes them work. The out-buildings need attention.

.

The schoolhouse is commodious and has pleasant surroundings, and has suitable registers for the escape of bad air. Many outside closets are delicately screened.

The first superintendent of schools, James Oldham, was appointed in 1905, when no member of the school board could again be persuaded to accept the arduous duties and responsibilities of school visitor. Mr. Oldham remained until 1909, when Richard Tobin succeeded him at an annual salary of \$1,000.

HIGHWAYS

The laying of hard roads, beginning with the macadamizing of Dixwell and Whitney Avenues, continued. The town bought a road roller, crusher, and watering cart in 1899. Gas lights and hydrants were installed along Dixwell and Whitney Avenues. In 1902 the Whitney Avenue trolley line was extended to Centerville. Dr. Joslin had been the first paying passenger to the Country Club in 1896, and paid his fare to David Corey, the president of the company. He was so much interested in trolley service for Hamden that he gave a tract of land south of his house in Mount Carmel, for

a car-barn. The trolleys ran to Mount Carmel in 1903, and a wooden waiting shelter was built on the Avenue near the depot. It was not long before trolley service was extended to Waterbury, and railroad passenger travel in and out of Hamden was practically at an end.

In 1903 complaint was made of the highway near the car-barn, that there was barely room for two teams to pass. Mr. John Rice, who owned the adjoining property, generously deeded to the town a strip of land which permitted widening of the street.

Once more Robert Dickerman offered to improve a road at Hamden Plains. Having signed an agreement with the town, he gave it a section of stone road on Maple Avenue, and work was completed on a Telford pavement on Gilbert Avenue. "As our townspeople know," said the town report, "Mr. Dickerman has already spent several thousand dollars for good roads. His example should be commended, and the citizens do what they can to assist him."

Gilbert Avenue has old associations with the names of other pioneers. It is in the region where Griswold Gilbert (selectman and dairyman) lived, and Matthew Gilbert before him was one of the first settlers on Hamden Plains. Mr. Dickerman offered to harden Gilbert Avenue on condition that the town build a bridge over Sackett's Brook, and a little farther to the west is Wilmot's Brook. At the same time one of two streets named Warner was renamed Woodin Street, for the family which had settled there in the earliest days.

Prominent among the later Woodins was Benjamin Woodin, born in this neighborhood in 1828. He was employed in the Candee rubber shoe factory, and at Churchill's auger shop, enlisted in the Civil War, and thereafter was a market gardener and fruit grower. He

served Hamden as an assessor, and in 1887 was representative in the legislature.

And while remembering the oldest family names as they still exist in Hamden Plains, it is interesting to note that three Dormans served the town as selectmen—Joseph in 1802-1805, Roger in 1812-1814, and Rufus in 1849-50. In searching out genealogy of that period in *Blake's History*, one finds complete data about fathers, sons, and grandsons, but records were very incomplete in regard to the female lines, not only as to dates of marriage and maiden names—but in the list of many a man's children, all statistics concerning sons are there—followed by the apparently unimportant information, "He had several daughters."

When Dr. Walter S. Lay became health officer in 1904, there were several vexing problems, chief among them the scattering of manure along the highway in Hamden Plains, when it was carted in open vehicles from the railroad siding near Broadbent's store. Dr. Lay's appeal to the State Board of Health resulted in an order requiring manure to be hauled in tight wagons, and to be covered with canvas firmly tied down.

An epidemic of measles, probably amounting to more than the eighty-one reported cases, was followed by the disinfection of all the schools. Dr. Lay made the following report on the Dunbar school:

The building is old and overcrowded. It is situated nearly, if not quite, four feet below the level of the road. Following heavy rains the water from the road and adjacent hillside surrounds the building, and at times even flows beneath the doors in on the floors. This state of affairs is certainly not conducive to the health of those in attendance there, and it should be speedily remedied.

Largely through his efforts the town voted to build a new school, but the Dunbar people could not agree upon where it should be located. Reporting in 1906, Dr. Lay hoped that the committee would be allowed to complete a building before cold weather, as he would under no circumstances permit the old one to be opened again in winter.

Schoolhouse doors were designated as the legal place for notices of town meetings to be posted, twelve inches wide and five days in advance, for sessions still held at 2.30 in the afternoon. A special meeting was called to take action upon a recommendation of the board of finance that \$3,800 be appropriated for a number of things—the widening of Whitney Avenue from Treadwell Street to Davis Street; \$500 for improvements on highways by the town hall; and \$1,320 for the costs sustained by the school visitors in the suit brought against them by the teacher of No. 1 school. All of these appropriations were made, and a 2-mill tax to cover them was levied on the grand list for 1906.

Mention in the town records of grading “on the hill at James Doolittle’s saw mill” brings to mind both the fact that Mr. Doolittle had become selectman in 1906, and also the very old story of the mill and the Doolittle home on West Todd Street. Allotted by New Haven Colony to Reverend James Pierpont, the first pastor of the First Church in New Haven, it was willed by him to the church and sold by the church to Waite Chatterton, who built the mill there soon after 1747. From his great-grandson it passed to Heman Doolittle, a cousin, born in Hamden in 1799. Heman’s son, Oswin, born in 1830, passed it on to his son James who was born in 1874. James still continued to “saw wood,” a desirable accomplishment for a politician!

Control over roads built under state aid was placed in the hands of the state highway commissioner by a law passed in 1907. This action relieved the town authorities of a heavy burden and responsibility. Immediately Hamden planned \$20,000 worth of road work and also appropriated \$5,000 for the purpose from town funds.

The selectmen spoke in their annual report of the recent substitution of corrugated metal pipes for small plank culverts and bridges—a little higher in cost but an eventual saving, for planking lasted scarcely more than one season, continually had to be repaired, and was often dangerous. “Even with the constant attention given, holes break through [planking], and the liability to damage is great.” Among the street-department assets listed in the town inventory were “tar kettle, two push brooms, ox chain, and 6384 feet of chestnut plank.”

INDUSTRIAL AND CIVIC CHANGES

The principal industries of Hamden in 1909 were listed:

Agriculture	Storage and mixing high
Carriage and automobile	explosive
hardware	Pruning shears
Suspender web	Japanning
Insulated wire	Smelting
Trap rock	Brickmaking
Ornamental concrete	

Brick-making in the eastern part of the town had grown into a large industry. The Horace Shares yards, through the use of improved machinery and coal instead of

wood for fuel, had rapidly increased their annual output to over 30,000,000 bricks.

In 1909 there was in existence in Mount Carmel a National Sales Company, Inc., authorized to "sell, manufacture, import, export, and deal in any and all kinds of merchandise and manufactured articles, stocks and bonds, and real estate." The incorporators meant to cover a thoroughly comprehensive field!

Judge Willis Cook of Mount Carmel, who occupied the Hamden bench from 1907 to 1917, had entered the employ of Frederick Ives at the age of ten and he remained with the Axle Works for forty years, being superintendent for twenty years. His mother was Willis Miller's sister. Mr. Cook purchased the business after Mr. Miller's death, and actively managed it until 1907, when he sold the property to the New Haven Water Company. During his ownership of the factory he was appointed Mount Carmel postmaster, and the post-office was in the factory building. During the occupancy of the Axle factory by the Liberty Cartridge Company who came there in 1911, the building burned.

The Mount Carmel Traprock Company set up its unpopular works at the head of the Sleeping Giant, and insult was added to injury, for besides the affront to its appearance there was the noise of blasting and of the stone crusher which broke up hundreds of tons of traprock. The stone was shipped out on trolley conveyances, and a spur track was run from Whitney Avenue to the quarry.

Residents along Whitney Avenue complained of the rumbling and thundering of the heavy trolleys, which actually shook the windows and dishes in their homes. The trolley company cut heavily into the freight busi-

ness of the railroad, and activity was not confined to the daylight hours; far into the night they clattered by; and sometimes the railroad engines were added, shunted over a connecting switch located a short distance above the Mount Carmel depot.

After George Andrews became town clerk in 1904, his diary contained little more than routine items. On the day of his appointment he had noted tersely two events, "Appointed town clerk. Chimney burnt out." He spoke of some mining activity, "Men are putting up machinery at copper mine. Cliff and I went up on York Hill [Rocky Top] and burned out the old mine." He ground the mowing-machine knives, went to camp meeting and singing school, had a barn raising, and measured wood on Wilmot land. But there was no more of the former neighborly visiting and eating with friends, and going to Grange meetings; and there was a difference in the accounts of Herculean tasks which he and his son used to do on the farm—crops, cattle, wood, roadwork, and building. Instead of the familiar "Cliff helped me," the items began to read "I helped Cliff."

When he died in 1909, the town report carried sincere words of praise from the selectmen. Mr. Andrews' successor as town clerk, Almon J. Deane, had been station agent at Mount Carmel since 1883.

The National Friends of Boys Club came into Hamden in 1909, and a branch was incorporated in Highwood under the leadership of Walter Kenyon, Benjamin Broadbent, and Frank Warner. The purpose was the sponsorship of "group work, penny savings banks, trade classes, and projects designed to rescue boys from evil influences." Walter Kenyon, who had begun his

long service as tax collector in 1905, was the first Boy Scout master in Hamden, and always took an active interest in work for boys.

By 1910, the town's grand list had grown to \$4,000,000, and its indebtedness had been reduced in less than ten years from \$65,000 to \$18,000. The New Haven Water Company protested their taxes to the extent of an appeal to the courts, but the selectmen sat down with representatives of the Company, and reported this outcome:

While we could not altogether share the views of the Water Company as to a fair valuation, we did not feel that we would be justified in standing out in the matter and incurring the expense of the suit; so an agreement was reached which appeared to be reasonably satisfactory to all concerned, and the suit was withdrawn.

The Water Company provided free water for the new watering trough which was set up at the main corner in Centerville, in exchange for which the Mill River ford at the Web Shop bridge was fenced in to prevent the watering of horses there or driving through the stream. Water was piped into the town hall, although the schools still used water pails and the common drinking cup.

The erection of the Centerville watering trough was the sixth in the town, and indicated that the day of the horse was not yet over, in spite of the fact that double tracks on the trolley line were being extended to Mount Carmel, and it was the heyday of the trolleys for passenger travel. The increased service which they offered to the public may have been given in anticipation of competition from the automobile, although at this time there were very few licensed automobiles in New Ha-

ven. Dixwell Avenue was given double tracks as far out as Church Street in Hamden.

The report of the clerk of the court rather apologetically itemized the meager funds in his care, and added: "It should be bourne in mind, however, that the court is not run to make money but for the suppression of crime, and sometimes at a financial loss." The clerk found it hard, as a money-wise Yankee, to take pride in a report which did not show a profit! In naming the improvements to the courtroom, he mentioned a platform which had been raised for the judge in the room shared with the town clerk and the selectmen, and a pen for the prisoners "to separate them from the spectators; otherwise, if they are not watched closely, they are liable to walk out."

Women voters made their first appearance at Hamden polls in the fall election of 1910, when sixteen of them embraced their legal privilege of casting votes on the school question. The schools gained a woman superintendent a year later when Miss Margaret Keefe succeeded Mr. Tobin. Teachers received an increase to \$10 a week in pay, and no objection was made to building the Mount Carmel school such as was voiced in regard to the erection of the Highwood school a few years before.

The West Woods school burned and the \$400 for which it had been insured had to be augmented with a town appropriation of \$1,500 to rebuild it. The Whitneyville school received from Frederick D. Grave, whose home overlooked the grounds, the gift of twenty-eight Norway maples which were set out on Arbor Day, intended to provide shade for the bare and treeless yard. When a park was in later years created there, largely through the influence of the Spring Glen Gar-

den Club, these maples had reached a lovely maturity, providing a splendid basic start for Eli Whitney Park, so named in recognition of the Whitney family who had given the property to the town, and the short street along its easterly side was named Eli Road.

VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES

The Highwood Volunteer Fire Company was organized in December, 1896. Enthusiastic efforts to raise money toward providing community fire protection were made through fairs and dances, socials and suppers, which were carried out with the able assistance of a Ladies Auxiliary. Trading stamps from the purchase of merchandise were collected and used in obtaining articles with which to furnish the Star Cycle Club headquarters. A lawn party was held in a big tent bought from the Kickapoo Indian Medicine Company. In 1897 the land on which the present firehouse now stands was acquired, but between that time and 1909 temporary quarters were used until there were sufficient funds to erect a building. The New Lebanon Mission building on Morse Street belonged to the company in 1899.

An appeal to the town for fire hydrants resulted in the installation of twelve in Highwood in 1898; and a two-wheel hose cart became the first apparatus in Hamden. Walter Kenyon gave an improvised hook and ladder outfit in 1905, which was soon after replaced with a truck built by the members. During the summer of 1909 these diligent members built the present firehouse in their spare time; the bell tower on it was a gift from Samuel Flight, and the bronze bell from Walter

Kenyon. Charles Loller, who later served for seventeen years as Hamden's fire chief, began his long fire-fighting experience in 1900 as chief of the Highwood company. Michael Whalen has been associated outstandingly with the activities of this company over the years, and after serving a long term as its president, he was honored with the presidency of the State Firemen's Association.

The Centerville Company grew out of the Hamden Athletic Association which flourished in 1902 in the promotion of baseball and field competitions. In 1904 the Association organized the fire company with Thomas Hartley as president, and meetings were for some time held in Roland Finley's barn. In 1908 they were permitted to build quarters on the town hall property; and the town soon after bought from them the four hydrants which they had installed at their own expense on Whitney Avenue. Their modest fire-fighting equipment of hose and two-wheel reel, hatchets, helmets, etc., was inherited from the Web Shop, whose fire-purpose water tower used to be a conspicuous high point in the Centerville scene.

The Whitneyville Improvement Association was organized in 1907 under the leadership of Frederick Grave, Morris Steinert, and T. Whitney Blake. They effected many civic accomplishments, chief of which were street lights on Whitney Avenue and the founding of the Whitneyville Fire Company in 1909, whose first equipment they supplied—a "jumper" and 500 feet of hose, 2 lanterns, 3 helmets, an axe, and a bar. These were at first housed in the Putnam barn on the southeast corner of Whitney and Putnam Avenues, but in 1910 an old building was purchased from the Winchester Repeating Arms Company and set up on Putnam Avenue. Theodore Sucher was the first captain, and

Henry Hall, who later served the town as second selectman, finance board member, representative, senator, and county commissioner, was head of the group for eighteen years. The first piece of automotive fire apparatus in Hamden was obtained by this company in 1914 through private subscriptions together with an appropriation of \$1,000 from the town.

The Humphrey Company was organized in 1911 and soon erected its building on Circular Avenue in Hamden Plains. The Mount Carmel Company was formed in the same year, and John Whitham, its president for seventeen years, was also honored with the presidency of the State Firemen's Association.

In these early years of elementary fire fighting, nothing outranked a fire for total community excitement. As news of the blaze spread, the street would fill with people running and shouting, women with their long white aprons flapping, children racing each other to be first at the scene, firemen struggling with their equipment and calling out orders and suggestions about speeding up the clumsy apparatus which rumbled and bumped along the road in company with the clattering hoofs of frightened horses—all in a great cloud of dust. The house usually burned to the ground in spite of the firemen's strenuous efforts with the inadequate equipment, although they, in company with the owners and all the neighbors, often saved an appreciable amount of the furniture.

The Highwood and Whitneyville firehouses and the town hall were the designated voting places when voting machines were authorized in 1913. The clerk of the town court, who was also probation officer, reported: "It is needless to say that the officials are kept busy;

they, like the firemen, have no hour they can call their own."

HAMDEN PLAINS CHURCH CENTENNIAL

The one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Hamden Plains Methodist Church was celebrated on December 28, 1913. The sum of \$2,000 had been spent in repairing and redecorating the building for the occasion, and more than one hundred invitations were sent to former members, bidding them back to the service commemorating the labors of Sybil Tuttle and the six other members of the first class. The day was a bright and sunny Sabbath, and at ten o'clock the church bell began to toll out one hundred strokes, bringing to the minds of listeners remembrance of joys and sorrows, of departed friends, of the comfort of spiritual experiences, and a solemn contemplation of the past and present importance of the work of this church in the community.

The morning sermon was preached by Reverend William Estes, who had been pastor in 1861, assisted by Reverend John Haugh, pastor in 1876, and Reverend George Dusenberre, pastor in 1895. At the luncheon gathering a poem, written for the occasion by Miss Augusta Mix, was read. A carefully prepared historical address was delivered in the afternoon by Edward B. Alling, who presented the church with a bronze tablet in memory of the first class.

Among the hymns sung on the occasion was one said to have been John Hampden's favorite *—"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past," particularly appropriate for a

* Winston Churchill, in his radio report of the Atlantic Charter meeting, when he said that the hymn was sung there.

commemorative service in a town named for him. The Hamden Plains Church has been especially noted for the fervor and effectiveness of its singing, dating back to the old days when the congregation, in singing, turned around in their pews to face the choir in the rear balcony. One of the older members says that a perennial favorite hymn has been:

On Jordan's rugged banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye,
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.

The singing in this church made a lasting impression upon the writer, when as a child of ten she was invited by her father to walk with him from Whitneyville through Treadwell Street to worship at Hamden Plains. As an inducement he offered to show her the strangest tree she ever saw. No tree beside the hot and dusty road was unusual and the riddle was not solved until, upon shaking hands with the pastor, she learned that his name was Reverend Edward O. Tree. The hymn "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" was rendered so well as to be remembered with especial pleasure through the succeeding years.

CHANGES AT GRACE CHURCH

Among the former pupils of the Rectory School was Abbott Augustus Lowe of New York, who gave the church its rectory, as a memorial to Reverend Charles W. Everest. Mr. and Mrs. William Brewster gave the parish house in memory of Reverend Joseph Brewster, whose home at Spruce Bank, Mount Carmel, they occupied after his death. In 1914 a beautiful altar, chancel

rail, sanctuary lamp, and brass candlesticks were secured, appropriately blending with the lovely Ionic columns and Greek border, making the church rank architecturally with the best of Connecticut churches. The original round-topped cupola had been replaced in 1847 by a 90-foot steeple designed by Henry Austin. During the year taken for its erection, services were held in Temperance Hall. When it was set afire by lightning in 1895, the blaze was extinguished with the help of the Web Shop hose and water power. Some of the firemen, clustered inside the building, had turned the hose up into the burning steeple and were promptly washed from their precarious perches by the force of the stream cascading back upon them from the tapered steeple top. This ill-fated heavenly pointer was blown down in 1915 by a severe wind storm, and crashed to the ground in complete wreckage, missing the old town hall by no more than four feet. In recent years a new and well-balanced steeple has been built, topped by a gold cross which was the gift of Architect J. Frederick Kelly.

ST. ANN'S CHURCH

A new church was established in Highwood in 1910, the Roman Catholic parish of St. Ann. For fifteen years Masses were said in the old New Lebanon Mission building on Morse Street, before the yellow brick church and rectory were built at Dixwell Avenue and Arch Street in 1925. It was a mission church without a resident pastor, and it was ministered to by the priests of St. Anthony's in New Haven—a national church using the Italian language. Because of the large number of Italian Catholics settling in Highwood, the parish grew rapidly, and in a few years the administration

of the parish work was given to an Italian-speaking assistant from St. John the Baptist Church near-by.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Catholic families in the State Street section of the town were gathered into a new parish in June, 1915, under the guidance of Father Downes of the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. For a while services were held in the old schoolhouse. George Kreis varnished a few chairs and brought from his home a rug and two pots of red geraniums, and these, with two candles and a crucifix, were the only decorations for the first Mass, which was celebrated by Father Charles Kelly. The attendance was good and the worshipers sat on the old school desks, as well as upon the freshly varnished chairs, one of which clung stubbornly to the trousers of the man who occupied it.

While services were being held in the school, the church building was being rapidly erected. In six weeks the roof was finished, and some old pews from a church being demolished in Waterbury were set in place for the first Sunday morning. These pews had not been fastened to the floor and in consequence were somewhat unsteady. The combined weight of several heavy women upon one of them proved too great a strain, and it came down with a mighty crash during the most solemn part of the Mass. Father Kelly turned to face the congregation and remarked that the ladies should have no fear, as they could not fall far! From Sunday to Sunday, the church showed progress in its comforts and decorations, and by the following Easter was entirely finished. Father Kelly remained in charge of the parish

for four years, when he was succeeded by Father Thomas Sullivan from St. Ann's Church in Highwood.

PLANS FOR A HIGH SCHOOL

The town report of 1912 referred to the increasing number of children who were seeking high-school education, and it contained estimates of the cost of maintaining a high school in Hamden at a probable saving to the town. The school authorities were stung into action by the refusal of the New Haven Board of Education to accept pupils from Hamden merely upon recommendation. It was claimed that the Hamden schools, being ungraded, did not equal the standards set by the grade schools of New Haven. To meet this situation, the Hamden School Board set up special classes for seventh- and eighth-grade pupils of the whole town at Highwood, Centerville, and Whitneyville. Experienced teachers were in charge, and in a short time the New Haven school authorities admitted Hamden pupils to New Haven High School without examination. The first grade-school graduation exercises were held in June, 1912, in the town hall, and in the following fall, seventy instead of the average number of twenty pupils attended high school.

OTHER SCHOOL AFFAIRS

There was an almost complete lack of library facilities in the school system in 1913. In her annual report, Miss Keefe said,

Hamden has practically no public library facilities, while our schools are without anything to supply this need in the way of reference books, encyclopedias, or

reading to supplement the single text book with which we are provided in each subject taught.

Hamden Plains school No. 11 burned, and a new eight-room school was erected on Church Street. This building and subsequent ones which came thick and fast with the rapid increase in population was made of brick, much of which came from the Davis brickyards in the eastern part of town.

Congestion in the State Street school made a new four-room building a necessity; and by 1914 the wooden building in Whitneyville was closed, and a larger structure erected on Putnam Avenue property purchased from the Winchester Repeating Arms Company. In it a high-school department began with fifty-one pupils, but public confidence in the venture was lacking, and it had to be abandoned. As the superintendent's report said, "It was a radical innovation, and it was confronted with the most bitter opposition and adverse criticism—condemned without a trial."

An unbroken record of fifty years of teaching in the public schools of Hamden was reached in 1915 by Miss Sue Dickerman of Mount Carmel. She taught her first class soon after the close of the Civil War. Although only one of many "Miss Dickerman's" who taught in Mount Carmel, she was the only one whose services extended to half a century. Not only did her pupils think of her with love and gratitude for her personality and ability, but in recognition of her services the School Board observed the occasion of her retirement with the gift of a handsome morocco-bound book, an appropriate symbol of her life's work.

Miss Florence Peck removed her school from Wallingford to Hamden in 1916, establishing it in a new

building on a high commanding rise of hillside across the road from her father's home on West Woods Road. This well-run country private school was called the Hillfield School. It maintained the characteristic atmosphere of refinement and culture which had always been associated with Mount Carmel. Many years before, when Mrs. Harmon Wakefield left her grandmother's house on Evergreen Avenue to visit Mrs. Willis Miller in the old Sherman place south of the Mount Carmel meetinghouse, the grandmother sighed thoughtfully as she remarked, "Ah, they're grand in Carmel!"

Perhaps they were grand in Carmel because they were influenced by the grandeur of the Sleeping Giant. This majestic monument has been loved by generations of men who have looked upon its beauty and felt that somehow it rightfully belonged to the whole public. But by 1915 it was apparent to everyone who looked toward the mountain that the unsightly inroads already made by the trap-rock company into the back of the Giant's head would soon destroy the beautiful and imposing figure—unless something were done at once to stop it.

It was fantastic to suppose that the old stone Giant, after so many millennia, could be lost, or in the absence of Indians, scalped! Public sentiment, roused from esthetic to civic feeling, was moved to determined activity, public meetings were held, and a movement for the protection of the Sleeping Giant range was begun under the leadership of Professor James Toumey and Dr. Anson Phelps Stokes. This campaign was interrupted by the World War I.

When he entered the Army for service in France, Dr. Walter Lay was obliged to give up his position as

health officer, and Dr. George Joslin once more took over the responsibilities. In his 1915 report he credited Hamden with being the largest milk producer among all of the towns suburban to New Haven. Having an acquaintance with the inspection work done by the New Haven Board of Health, he testified to the excellent quality of the milk sold by Hamden dairymen.

Dr. Joslin also increased the garbage-collection service which Dr. Lay had begun in Whitneyville several years before, by instituting a route through Dixwell Avenue and its side streets to the New Haven line, and promising its extension throughout the town as necessity demanded. In his didactic way he commented: "Patrons of garbage collection service will please bear in mind that the garbage is fed to swine, and the swine refuse to consume tin cans, coal ashes, bottles and other unpalatable pabulum. Patrons will kindly refrain from putting such articles in the garbage can."

The garbage collection made possible an increasing number of pigs at the town farm, which thereby became a better-paying proposition than it had been in the past. Selectmen had complained in successive reports of 1903 onward, that the town farm cost too much. Although, on the average, there were but a few elderly inmates, nevertheless the expenses for the upkeep of the house and the farm implements had to be paid, however few they were. At one time a tool shed was built to protect the farm implements from the weather, but the selectmen would not justify making the further outlay of \$500 to install a bathtub and hot water, which would involve building a windmill at the "never-failing spring" on the property. They considered the farm a burden and "a white elephant upon the town's hands; but we have it and must make the best of it." That they

did make the best of it in more ways than one by 1915 was indicated in the report: "At the town farm the general crops were fairly good, and the crop of corn was excellent. The inmates are being well taken care of by the new superintendent. From the collection of garbage we have been enabled to increase the number of swine raised, to fifty of various sizes."

The health problem of controlling the mosquito menace was initially dealt with by draining a section of the old canal near Dr. Joslin's, which was a breeding place, and a swamp in Whitneyville. The first drainage sewer was installed at St. Mary and Morse Streets after the low corner was filled in. Sanitary sewer needs were evident, and Dr. Joslin reported: "Through the enterprise of some of the large manufacturing interests, the Dixwell Avenue sanitary sewer has been extended several blocks north into the town of Hamden." This extension was owned by the Whitney Blake and the Marlin Rockwell Companies.

Theodore Whitney Blake acquired the Dixwell Avenue site for the wire factory in 1912, adding the site of the old No. 11 school on the north. He transferred the land to the Whitney Blake Company in 1913, and the capital stock of the concern was increased from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

The Marlin Rockwell plant had developed as a war industry on property purchased in 1918 from the Mayo Radiator Company on Dixwell Avenue south of Putnam Avenue. The building was planned in January, and was rushed to completion in March under great difficulties. The excavation was blasted out of earth four feet deep with frost in one of the hardest winters in fifty years. The Radiator Company's purchase of the property in 1909 from Charlotte Munson had marked

the end of a seventy-year ownership by the family of Henry Munson, who had acquired it in 1840 from James M. Ford, Hamden's representative at Hartford in 1859-60.

The Acme Wire Company was the earliest of the large interests to operate on Dixwell Avenue. It came there after its five-year occupancy of the Whitney Armory site in Whitneyville. The founder and first president was Victor Morris Tyler, son of the president of New Haven's pioneer telephone exchange, established in 1888.

The first telephone exchange in Hamden was located by the Southern New England Telephone Company in Dr. Lay's story-and-a-half house in Centerville. The building later became the quarters of the Hamden Free Public Library.

War-time demands brought the purchase of the Web Shop in Centerville by the American Mills Company of Waterbury, a large and well-established concern producing elastic webbing. Originally the company was organized by brass manufacturers who were making the metal trimmings for suspenders. In the Centerville factory they manufactured cartridge and machine-gun belting, and straps for gas masks.

SCHOOL CONDITIONS

Another proposal to build a Hamden high school was voted down in 1916, as was also the suggestion that manual training classes be set up in the old Whitneyville school and the Mount Carmel Bolt Company.

New schools were needed in Centerville, Highwood, and Newhall. The School Board reported that the population of the town had increased from 5,850 in



The Old Hamden Plains Methodist Church



Centerville Crossroads in 1836



The Door Tree, in Sleeping Giant Park

1910 to 9,073 in 1916, the gain in one year being 776. They substantiated their figures with the building inspector's report which showed the erection in one year of 64 one-family houses and 10 two-family houses. Through the efforts of the School Board, appeal was made to the state legislature, which authorized the issuance of school bonds to the amount of \$150,000.

The schools of the town with the number of rooms and the attendance were:

West Woods	1	room,	17	pupils
Mt. Carmel, No. 1	1	"	25	"
Mt. Carmel, No. 4	2	"	85	"
Centerville	4	"	142	"
Mix	1	"	34	"
Putnam	8	"	293	"
Old Whitneyville	3	"	92	"
State Street	4	"	150	"
Old State Street	1	"	43	"
Church Street	8	"	319	"
Dunbar	1	"	44	"
Highwood	8	"	273	"
Humphrey Hall	2	"	72	"

The nationality of these 1,589 schoolchildren might be roughly estimated from a tabulation made in 1917 which showed the distribution of foreign-born in Hamden's population:

Austria	2.6 per cent
French Canada	1.1
Other Canadian	2
England, Scotland, Wales	6.2
France4
Germany	9.6
Greece2
Hungary	1.1
Ireland	21

Italy	30.7
Netherlands, Belgium4
Scandinavia	4.5
Russia	18.7
Turkey	4.
All others	1.3

An epidemic of infantile paralysis in the fall of 1917 delayed the opening of school until October.

The school children patriotically purchased thrift stamps, amounting in six months of 1918, to \$4,484. Junior Red Cross classes were organized, in which the children did sewing, snipping, and knitting, and made joke books for soldiers. The summer-school session for this work had the largest registration of any town in the state. The Junior Red Cross work was developed through the activity of the Hamden Red Cross Chapter which had been organized just before the war, and whose notable war work was conducted in the Center-ville parish house and the Mount Carmel No. 4 school.

HAMDEN SOLDIERS

Four hundred Hamden young men were called to the service of their country, and an honor roll bearing their names was set up on the lawn of the town hall. Incidentally the town hall was in bad condition. As far back as 1914, the north wall was reported to have settled several inches, causing the brickwork of the sides to be "badly rent." In 1918 the cellar walls were noticeably settling, making splits in the building.

In March, 1918, the Hamden War Bureau was organized at a public meeting. A special town meeting held in June resolved

that the Town of Hamden does recognize said War Bureau as the agency to conduct all war work in the town; does approve its constitution and bylaws, and appropriates the sum of \$638.85, being the unappropriated balance of the penalty tax received by the treasurer from the State; to be expended for the benefit of the men who already have or may enter the war service from Hamden, and for expenses necessary to the Bureau.

The money was largely expended for postage, and gifts of razors and tobacco to soldiers.

When the war was over, a Welcome Home Day, June 14, 1919, was celebrated, under the auspices of twenty-nine organizations headed by J. Frederick Jackson. A parade of nearly 100 automobiles and motor trucks ended at the town hall which was handsomely decorated in honor of the 150 boys who were the guests of the day. A sumptuous banquet was served, and the program of entertainment included music by school children, band and drum corps selections, and addresses by Selectman George Warner, Dr. Amos P. Wilder, and Reverend Harris Starr. Father Downes read the address written by Judge James H. Webb whose illness prevented him from attending. Taps followed the reading of the names of Hamden's honored dead. Dancing until midnight ended the program.

The committee decided to use whatever money was left over for the benefit of needy soldiers, and also to print an account of *Hamden Men in the World War*. Nine issues of a home news pamphlet publication called *Hamden*, had been sent to the boys while they were in service.

A. Frederick Oberlin, who later became the Hamden assistant town engineer, went to France as a first lieu-

tenant, afterward becoming a captain in the One Hundred Second Regiment. While serving as the regiment's intelligence officer in the action at Seichprey, he succeeded in getting back to Colonel Parker at Beaumont information about Company C, which was believed lost in Remieres Wood. Several runners had been killed in attempting to do this, and he was cited for "extraordinary heroism and sound judgment, when in absolute disregard of danger, he risked his life throughout the engagement. . . . His conduct was marked by distinguished courage, resource and gallantry."

During the bombardment of Beaumont, he voluntarily carried information of great value, five or six times, through an exceedingly heavy barrage until the end of the engagement. He was decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross, the Croix de Guerre, and received three citations.

Bernard Early, who gained national fame through the brave deeds which he performed in his close association with Sergeant Alvin York, is a Hamden resident.

Brave deeds were done by scores of Hamden's valiant men, some recognized by official decorations, others unknown and unrecounted. But whether or not the world knew their worth, their townspeople's hearts were full of gratitude. These Hamden men fell in the service of their country:

John F. MacDermott
Robert B. Remington
Paul R. Farrel
Theodore F. Hesse
Antonio Cardo
Arthur Parmalee
John Stevens
Charles Mulligan

Edward Streeto
Angelo Cavallero
Bamby Leo
Maurice Collins
Francis J. Barrett
William Mueller
Joseph Williamson

The town had established a fund of \$8,000 for the erection of a memorial to its war heroes. A special town meeting in 1919 voted against the purchase of the square of ground east of the town hall.

Citizens were seating themselves on the stage because all other available space was occupied, when the meeting opened. The veteran moderator declared himself unaffiliated with any faction and able to discharge his duties impartially. Town Clerk Deane read the call of the meeting, which was to decide whether or not to purchase, for park purposes, the square opposite the town hall, bounded by School Street and Dixwell, Whitney, and Washington Avenues.

The first motion—to table discussion of the site—was lost by a goodly margin, and was followed by a motion that the recommendation of the Finance Board to purchase the site be adopted. This opened animated discussion plentifully sprinkled with lively argument, which in this particular issue contained no politics.

Those who favored the purchase pointed out that the town needed an outdoor meeting place, that a park in this locality would be a great public improvement, that, as the largest town in the county Hamden ought to have a public square, that such a place would be a suitable memorial to our war heroes, and an inducement to outsiders to come to the town.

Those who were opposed to the acquisition of the property were chiefly interested in other projects for war memorials, either a monument or a community house or another site, some saying that this site was not practicable.

When the chair pointed out that the call of the meeting did not incorporate a memorial project, the question was perforce narrowed down to discussion of this site

only. Much fervent talk of civic gratitude to war heroes and how best "to write their names forever in the hearts of the townspeople" showed that the voters were more interested in the choice of a war memorial than they were in the town's need for this property. There were not enough people in favor of the site to outweigh the combined opposition of those who for various reasons opposed it, so the motion was lost.

This is but one illustration of Hamden's characteristic behavior in important town matters—she neither takes action nor spends money impulsively, but always takes a reasonable amount of time to weigh and consider pros and cons.

One of the important results of the war was the adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution, and whatever Hamden's sentiments in regard to it may have been, one may assume from her record of votes for local option that she heartily concurred in the attitude taken by the state of Connecticut in refusing to ratify the Amendment.

The Eighteenth Amendment became effective on January 16, 1920, and within six months the Nineteenth Amendment, granting the ballot to women, was also in effect. In the election of that year, 526 Hamden women were made voters.

Rapidly growing expenses of the town were not alone those of the schools. It was necessary to float road bonds of \$100,000 to provide for the construction and maintenance of town roads and a new concrete bridge over Mill River in Centerville. The fire companies received \$10,000 in 1919 and an equal amount in 1920. The new Seagrave engine at Humphrey cost \$12,694, twenty-two fire-alarm boxes amounted to \$11,000, while \$2,742 was spent for hydrants and their upkeep.

The Humphrey Fire Company did more than fight the fire, for they gave the use of their building to the church for a period of two years. During this time the present brick church was erected on the site of the old edifice. Hubert Warner, a direct descendant of Sybil Tuttle, helped to spread the mortar for the cornerstone. Among the articles placed in it was the list of names of the thirteen World War soldiers whose church home this was, and not surprisingly, it included a Dorman and four Warners.

Of Native Parentage	3,510
Of Foreign Parentage	2,388
Of Mixed Parentage	564
Foreign-Born White	1,974
Negro	175
Illiterate..... 601 { Foreign Born	573
{ Native White	15
{ Negro	13

Women became more prominent in town activities after the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment. The Visiting Nurse Association was founded in 1919, and Julia Reynolds was the first nurse. Her services were in heavy demand at once, during the extensive epidemic of influenza which swept the town.

For the first time in its history, the School Board had a woman member, Mrs. Amos P. Wilder. Raymond Collins became chairman, due to the illness of Father Downes. Two innovations in the schools were a special class for mentally deficient children, and a class organized in Highwood for foreign-born adults who were beginning to read. The Americanization classes were taught, with the exception of one paid teacher, by volunteers, many of them from Yale. In the second year, sessions were held for 75 nights in the Dixwell School, with an enrollment of 62, made up of adults and boys of working age.

These classes were largely promoted by the Highwood Italian-American Club, which had been organized in 1915. Its average membership of 50 men has always been required to be American citizens, and the club's chief purpose has been Americanization work in Highwood, whose population is 75 per cent Italian. Through the club's activity, 200 foreign-born residents have become citizens. Much work with boys has also been done through the sponsoring of boy scouts and a baseball team which once won the New Haven City Championship.

The erection of new Hamden school buildings proceeded with breath-taking momentum. In the seven years from 1918 through 1924, five new buildings were erected—Centerville and Newhall in 1918; Mount Carmel and Pine in 1921; and Spring Glen in 1924.

Additions were made to four—two rooms at Dunbar in 1918, four rooms at State Street in 1919, and to Newhall and Church Street in 1923. Kindergartens were set up in the five largest schools.

Hamden Hall, a private school for boys, was organized by John P. Cushing, who had been principal of New Haven High School for many years. He purchased the Morris Steinert property on Whitney Avenue opposite Davis Street.

The New Haven Orphan Asylum was set up on seventeen acres in Whitneyville given by Frederick Brewster, grand-nephew of James Brewster, carriage maker and railroad magnate. During World War I, the property was cultivated as a vegetable garden in which the children hoed and weeded as their war activity. After the buildings were erected in 1925, on the "children's village" plan, the Mount Carmel Children's Home was absorbed by the institution. Mounting expense and an antiquated plant had caused the Home to suspend during the war. They elected the same officers as headed the New Haven Asylum, through whose guidance children sponsored by the Home are placed under foster care and the cost is met by Home funds. Some assistance for these needy children came from Community Chest funds, after such funds became available in 1920.

TWO MEMORIALS

The failure of the town to purchase the ground opposite the town hall for use as a park was a great disappointment to many. But the need was appreciated by Lydia A. Bassett, who upon her death on November 13, 1921, left to the town three tracts of ground on Ridge

Road at Waite Street, subject to the life use of the Van Doren brothers. She asked that the ground be known as "Bassett Park" in memory of her father and grandfather. The grandfather was Theophilus Bassett, who lived from 1753 to 1829; he married Lydia Atwater, who died in 1837. Her father was Theophilus Bassett, Jr. (1794-1870), and her mother was Electa Warner (1797-1858), the daughter of Ebenezer Warner.

With efforts for a memorial park no longer necessary, public sentiment was now ready to settle upon a Memorial Town Hall as Hamden's lasting tribute to her military heroes. It was erected in 1924, at a cost of \$160,000. These appropriate eulogies are inscribed upon its rotunda walls:

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

To the heroes of the Revolution of this community who fought and died for liberty and for the birth of a new nation, this hall is consecrated by the Town of Hamden. "What stronger breastplate than a heart untainted. Thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel just."

WAR OF 1812

To the men of Hamden on land or sea who confirmed the justice of the cause of liberty entrusted to them in the War of 1812. "For freedom's battle once begun, bequeathed by bleeding sire to son; though baffled oft, is ever won."

CIVIL WAR

To the heroes of the Civil War from the Town of Hamden, who offered their lives that our nation conceived in liberty might endure. "From these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

SPANISH WAR

To the men of Hamden who gave their services to their country in the Spanish War to free an oppressed people without thought of gain. "These are the torch-bearers, these are they who have dared the great adventure."

WORLD WAR

In thankful and joyful memory of the men and women of this town who by the grace of God gave their lives in the war of 1917-1918 at the call of their country for the cause of righteousness and peace throughout the world.

"When you go home, tell of us and say
For your tomorrow, these gave their today."

The new town hall, designed by Richard Williams, had quarters in the northeast corner for the Centerville Fire Company, which was the first to occupy quarters owned by the town. There were many flights of oratory in town meetings by advocates of bigger and better fire equipment. One excited speaker shouted, "Suppose we should have a great *conflagration!*" At this time there were six companies in the town, the latest in the State Street district being known as the Annex. More than \$11,000 was spent by the town for their upkeep in 1923, and \$18,000 in 1924. A disastrous fire at the Economy Concrete Company on Dixwell Avenue gave the firemen a stubborn battle, and the loss was \$100,000.

Later spectacular fires included, ironically enough, a barn owned by the chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners, James Gillies, and the loss was \$1,000, including some horses which could not be rescued from the building. Water was pumped from a hydrant on Ridge Road, and the water main was so small that twenty or thirty boilers in neighboring houses collapsed.

A fire at the Dextone Company on Dixwell Avenue in the exact spot where the Economy Concrete Company had stood caused the loss of \$150,000, and the unsightly ruins remained untouched for several years.

Firemen, school children, World War veterans, and other citizens participated in a great Community Field Day held at Legion Field in Centerville, under the auspices of the Mount Carmel Civic Club in 1919. Athletic events, prizes, music, and hundreds of spectators made the event a great success; particularly so because the insular villages of Hamden needed town-wide interests to draw them together. The name of Legion Field came from the fact that after the war the Water Company allowed Hamden Post, No. 88, Legionnaires to use the field for weekly Sunday baseball games.

The Mount Carmel Civic Club, organized in 1916 under the leadership of Miss Ella Bassett and Mrs. A. E. Woodruff, sponsored activities in addition to Community Field Days, including the establishment of street lights, library help, local improvements—and the planting in front of the library on Whitney Avenue of memorial trees, each dedicated to a Hamden boy who lost his life in the war. Mrs. Arthur Woodruff was for fifteen years a forceful and diligent president of the club.

Mrs. William Brewster, whose efforts started the Mount Carmel library and helped the Centerville one, was equally interested in all Mount Carmel civic club life. She instituted in her family a custom of making birthday gifts which gave pleasure to the community as well. She gave her husband a present of an illustrated lecture by a noted traveler who brought no less a personage with him than President Hadley of Yale, and the whole Civic Club shared the evening with the

Brewsters. When her small daughter celebrated a birthday, Mrs. Brewster imported a professional Punch & Judy show to perform on the spacious lawn for the delight of all the children in the community. It was said that on her own birthday Mr. Brewster gave her the money which financed their gift to Grace Church of its parish house.

THE TOWN'S BUSINESS

The town's business had so grown that the first selectman was made a full-time official at a salary of \$3,000. Two new departments were organized—the Police Department and the Sewer Board. Up until this time, the constables had maintained law and order in a very general way as ordered by the selectmen.

The first full-time engineer, F. Walden Wright, was appointed in 1921, and intricate matters fell under the jurisdiction of his department. There were 150 miles of roads as well as bridges to maintain, new streets, real-estate developments, map making, drains, and now sanitary sewers also became an urgent necessity. The new Sewer Board recommended the purchase of the Dixwell Avenue sewer line for \$17,500. New sewer bonds were issued to the amount of \$100,000, and a tremendous project to serve Whitneyville, Highwood, and Dixwell Avenue to Benham Street almost concurrently was begun. Fourteen miles of sewers and drains had been laid by 1924 at a cost of \$350,000, and when a few years later the Spring Glen line was finished, the town had about fifty miles of mains which served 80 per cent of the town.

Many town reports had referred to the need of extending the Dixwell Avenue trolley line which ended at Benham Street, to Centerville, and at last the Con-

necticut Company was ordered to build the extension. The town was persuaded, however, to accept instead, bus service running between the town hall and the New Haven line.

A Board of Police Commissioners was set up to oversee the growing police department, and a Board of Fire Commissioners who appointed Charles Loller fire chief was established in 1925. The cost of the six companies in 1925 was \$25,461, and the equipment included the following items:

- 2 750-gallon pumpers, triple combination
- 2 550-gallon pumpers, triple combination
- 2 350-gallon pumpers, triple combination
- 3 combination chemicals
- 1 hook-and-ladder truck
- 36 2½-gallon extinguishers
- 7 2½-gallon Foamite extinguishers
- 8,150 feet of 2½-inch hose
- 2,150 feet of chemical hose
- 202 hydrants

Two more companies were organized at this time—Mix District in 1924 built a firehouse on property given them by Fred and Lucy Kirk on Shepard Avenue. Fred Kirk was president for many years, and his brother Dwight the first captain. Dunbar built a community house in 1926 which also housed the fire apparatus. The truck which they inherited as their first firefighter refused to go uphill in the expected manner and always had to be backed up. William Hindinger was the first president. The Dunbar Community Club, formed at the same time, sponsored dances and suppers in the real old-fashioned manner—a country style which they still practice.

Spring Glen was a rapidly growing residential section; land for a new school was acquired there and a new Catholic church, St. Rita's, was formed from the mother parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Its first building, standing on Park Avenue and now used for a church hall, was dedicated in 1923, with Reverend Matthew Brady as the first pastor.

SLEEPING GIANT PARK

The campaign to save the Sleeping Giant from further mutilation was renewed after the close of the World War. The Sleeping Giant Park Association came into existence in 1924 as an offshoot from the Connecticut Forestry Association. Subscriptions were solicited, and a part of the mountain was purchased and turned over to the state of Connecticut for a state park. About 500 members were added to the Association, and some \$12,000, along with gifts of land, was secured. The first and largest piece, 129 acres on the second mountain, was acquired from John E. Heaton. By December, 197 acres had been turned over to the state.

Special credit for the enterprise was due to Professor James Toumey, Bancel LaFarge, J. Walter Bassett, Miss Susan Whitney, and other leaders; but there would have been no general acquisition of land nor preservation of the head and contour of the Giant, had not many others helped—officials of the state, members of the Yale faculty, the Park Board, and those who gave land, money, or services. Some of the gifts were remarkable—\$8,500 from two sisters in Waterbury, \$5,000 from an anonymous Boston contributor, and sums from local people ranging from \$1 to \$13,000.

In the shadow of the Giant, one of two new golf courses was laid out in 1924 and called the Giant Valley course, on property formerly belonging to Frank Butterworth and George Dudley. The Meadowbrook course on Dixwell Avenue in Centerville was laid out on land which had been a prize dairy farm belonging to H. Irving Todd.

THE LIBRARY FUND

Mary, widow of Willis E. Miller, died in 1924. In her will she left \$100,000 to the town, subject to the life use of her daughter Gertrude. She specified that the bequest was to be used for the establishment of a public library, including the purchase of a site if needed, and the erection of a building, preferable near the center of the town, in memory of Mr. Miller.

The two places in the town where library facilities were maintained were in the Centerville Library, and in the old Mount Carmel schoolhouse which was given to the Mount Carmel Library Association when the new school was built. That community particularly appreciated the work of Miss Laura Dickerman, librarian, and in the Hamden school superintendent's report of 1925 tribute was paid to her patient and careful help to school pupils in their choice of books.

The Whitneyville Woman's Club, with the assistance of others, had increased to 735 the number of volumes in the library of the Putnam school.

HAMDEN BANK AND TOWN FINANCES

In line with the growth of the town in every particular, promoters of a Hamden bank felt that such an

institution would be desirable and progressive, especially if it was located in a place convenient to the large industries and to a great number of the townspeople. The Hamden Bank & Trust Company was organized on August 20, 1924, by George W. Warner, Carle Vande Bogart, Henry F. Hall, Joseph C. Montgomery, Almon J. Deane, Ericsson Broadbent, Frank A. Warner, Fred B. Kingsbury, Walter T. Kenyon, and C. Raymond Brock. Business was transacted in a building at 862 Dixwell Avenue and, after 1926, in the bank which was erected at the junction of Dixwell and Circular Avenues. Walter Kenyon was the first president, later succeeded by Ericsson Broadbent.

Quarters in the Hamden Bank building were leased by the Government in 1928 for the Hamden post-office, which serves all the town except Mount Carmel which still maintains its branch office.

The Hamden Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1926 to promote the commercial, industrial, and civic interests of the town.

The increased complexity of the town's finances led the selectmen to ask for the employment of professional auditors, and in 1926 a special town meeting instructed the selectmen to engage certified public accountants to audit all of the financial accounts of the town. Hamden was one of the first towns in the state to take this step. An interesting discovery by the auditors was one of fifty-two bank books which they located made out to "School District No. 10, Wilber H. Thomas, treasurer." It showed a deposit of \$59.45 on June 22, 1895, which made a total with the accumulated interest of \$310.65. This was placed in the School Fund.

The tax rate, which during the previous decade had varied from 17 mills to 23, was now fixed at 21 mills;

and taxes were made payable semiannually, while town elections were changed from annual to biennial.

The Hamden Bank instituted a school savings system. During the first year, 68 per cent of the school children (2,278) deposited \$8,382.42; and in the following year 71 per cent (2,543) participated, their savings being \$13,221.33.

HEALTH AND RECREATION

On Child Health Day (May 1), Webb Field in Spring Glen was the scene of an elaborate demonstration of the school work in physical education, when two hundred girls from the upper grades of five schools gave an exhibition of folkdances of various nations. School children performed in a Maypole dance at the annual Community Field Day at Legion Field, and this feature was added to the usual program of athletic events, popular with both the entrants and the spectators. The importance of these field days could not be overestimated, in the development of health and sportsmanship in the children, and in the opportunity afforded the townspeople to come together in a common interest.

Child-health interest was broadened to include all the town's health problems, which seemed to be too numerous for a single health officer's responsibility. A health survey of the New Haven area that included Hamden was made under the direction of Professor Ira Hiscock of Yale School of Medicine. Within three years the Hamden Board of Health was established. The school doctor, dentist, and nurses were put under the new Board's control, as was the appointment of the health officer.

The prominence of Field Day activities brought the suggestion that a desirable playground location might be made of Weiss Park on Woodin Street, which had been the home field of the New Haven professional baseball club for several years (since 1922). Nothing came of the plan, although the locality soon became a recreational focal point, for the circus began to make its annual visits, drawing enormous throngs of spectators to the huge field bounded by Putnam Avenue, Dixwell Avenue, the railroad tracks, and Morse Street. This tract was purchased in 1930 for an airport, which was managed by Elijah Williams. A hangar was built, and planes came and went in moderate numbers for a few years to what was known as the "Hamden Airport."

The current popularity of a variety of recreations included an interest in neighborhood "movies," in which Sunday performances were legalized by a close town-meeting vote, 70 to 63. There were then two motion picture theaters in the town, the Strand and the Dixwell, and more recently the Whitney.

A NEW CHURCH

In the rapidly growing Spring Glen district, an undenominational community church held its services in a building which had been the milkhouse of the Webb dairy farm, as well as the first Spring Glen clubhouse. One hundred fifty families were interested in the church, and Reverend Victor Brown was called as the first pastor. About two hundred children were in the Sunday School, and an addition of six rooms for their accommodation was made to the building. This created a slightly complicated legal status, in that the new part belonged

to the church, while the lot and the original structure remained the property of the Webb family.

SCHOOL MATTERS

The School Board reported in 1929, "Hamden must soon erect a high school. We are pleased to say that the necessary ground has been selected and contracted for." This was a slight overstatement, but an option had been taken on the Alva Humiston property on Dixwell Avenue, after a town meeting authorized the erection of a school. A school was indeed needed, and 760 local pupils were ready to enter it.

In ten years, grade-school enrollment had doubled. The Helen Street School needed an addition three years after it was built, and additions to Putnam and Spring Glen came concurrently. The increased demand for playground facilities during the summer months led to the appointment of Stanley Leeke as full-time superintendent of recreation. A native son of Hamden, he was a direct descendant of Russell Leeke. Under his direction nine school playgrounds were equipped for the summer, and nineteen young people were appointed to supervise the children. Under the management of a citizen's committee of 88 people, the tenth and largest Community Field Day was held, with 500 contestants and several thousand spectators.

A popular innovation in the school program was the establishment of general evening schools; and classes for non-English speaking people were opened at Centerville and State Street, in addition to those already being conducted in Highwood. The Centerville classes were sponsored largely by the Felice-Cavallotti Italian-

American Club, which made Americanization its chief interest.

A school matter once more became the high point of interest in a town meeting. Taking its place in a long history of packed and fiery gatherings of public-minded citizens, the annual town meeting of 1931 marked the climax of the campaign for the new high school. Comparatively little attention was given to the printed pamphlets which contained the Board of Finance's estimate of expenditures for the coming year. Once more the people were roused on an educational matter; this time the site for the high school was the burning issue. Many residents of the east side of town favored the purchase of the Meadowbrook golf course. But figures were presented, which seemed to prove that the Humiston property on Dixwell Avenue, already secured by option, would be nearer the center of the school population. Many thrifty souls could not bear to see the \$10,000 option wasted. Some of the town officials regarded the issue as a test vote of confidence in the School Board. The moderator, in spite of his thirty years of experience, was hard pressed to keep order. When all the orators had hoarsely subsided and the vote was taken, the decision stood that "the Board of Selectmen be authorized to obtain title to the Alva Humiston property, containing twenty-two acres on the west side of Dixwell Avenue, on which the town has an option."

On Thanksgiving Day, 1931, the whole town was shocked and saddened by the death of Walter T. Kenyon, who had served as tax collector for twenty-six years. Hundreds of townspeople who knew him as an official of the town and as an active member of the Hamden Plains Church mourned the loss of a good

friend and a good man. His sister Mae, who had been his office assistant since 1914, has since carried on the duties of the office.

On December 17, 1931, the Hamden Bank and Trust Company, caught in a depression which was nation-wide, closed its doors. The closing was a heavy blow to the town officials, some of whom held responsible positions in it. The town collected the treasurer's defaulted bond of \$65,000 from the surety company after five years in the courts, during which the judgment of the United States District Court was upheld by the Circuit Court of Appeals, and an appeal to the United States Supreme Court to review the case was refused. The town's deposits in the defunct institution were frozen for a time, with some consequent embarrassment.

Due to the economic situation, the selectmen had many requests for employment, and they provided such work as widening back roads and constructing drains, using hand labor so as to employ the greatest number of men. From the "round robin" football exhibition of four college teams in the Yale Bowl for the benefit of unemployed, Hamden received \$1,606.89; and four Hamden groups contributed to the cause as follows: the Police Ball proceeds of \$557.60; the Democratic Club added \$200; the Teachers League \$493; and a public school musicale program \$164. Most of this money was spent for fuel for needy families. Relief appropriations from town funds rose in this period to \$105,086, declining thereafter. Federal aid for outside poor was made available by the state, and Federal money was spent on roads, bridges, painting, and repairs of public buildings, and library work.

Under the E.R.A. and the W.P.A., unemployed men to the average number of three hundred were

given work on construction projects. Thirty young men went to C.C.C. camps. The New Haven Water Company permitted needy householders to cut firewood on their extensive wooded land, under the town's supervision. During the winter months many men took advantage of this opportunity, and the wood was delivered to them by the town.

The school children, eager as always to help, made donations of food for Thanksgiving baskets which were sent, in 1931, to sixty-two families. In the schools there were many children who themselves lacked sufficient food and clothing. The undernourished were helped with Community Chest funds, and a "shoe fund" was administered by the school nurses, contributions being made to it by the Teachers League, the Whitneyville Woman's Club, and the Community Club.

Another epidemic of infantile paralysis in 1932 delayed the opening of school until October. Splendid work in the special classes for subnormal children was reported from year to year. On every annual inspection day, they prepared and served a meal to the School Board. They fashioned properties for school dramatics, and in many ways were made to feel a useful part of the school system.

Library books became somewhat more conveniently available to Centerville children when, with the institution of the new dial telephone system, the Centerville exchange was moved to Augerville, and the old building was converted to the use of the Hamden Public Library Association. The library's quarters had been across the way in the very room where old-time town meetings used to be held.

The School Board was disposed to comment on the lack of library facilities for school children, a lack which

Miss Keefe had frequently pointed out in her annual superintendent's reports. After the Dixwell Avenue branch of the New Haven Public Library refused its privileges to children from Hamden, there were seven schools which had no access whatever to general libraries. The School Board expressed gratitude to the two small library groups on the east side of town who were giving help, and to the Whitneyville Woman's Club which had been largely responsible for the accumulation of 1,724 volumes at the Putnam school. The town and state grant of \$400 a year for school reference books was entirely inadequate, and an inventory of the books in the different schools showed the following situation:

Church Street School	80 volumes
Dunbar	30 volumes
Dixwell and Pine	75 volumes
Newhall	300 volumes
Spring Glen	252 volumes
Helen	940 volumes
State	200 volumes (two sets of reference books provided by the principal)

Private schools in Hamden's history seem to have come into existence whenever there was a lack in public educational facilities. Whether or not the dearth of library books inspired their coming, two private schools were established in Whitneyville. The Hamden Hall Associates, who acquired the school for boys founded by Mr. Cushing, admitted girls as well and included a wider age group. On Whitney Avenue, George V. Larson set up an imposing brick building overlooking Lake Whitney, in which he established a secretarial school and junior college, in which many Hamden girls have been pupils.

GIANT'S HEAD SAVED

The crusade for saving the Sleeping Giant had been moving steadily forward, and in ten years the Association and the state together had spent \$185,000. The publicly owned land amounted in 1924 to 311 acres; by 1928 it had risen to 654, and in 1933 there were 935 acres embraced in the park's holdings. A check on the number of visitors from 1924 to 1928 showed approximately 29,000 in a year—a number probably far less than a similar tabulation would reveal today. As Professor Toumey said, it was “unposted, unfenced, open for all to enjoy and to have in common ownership; the Sleeping Giant—yours, mine, and everybody's—dedicated to the upbuilding of moral and physical health through the recreational opportunities which it affords.”

The acquisition of park land held by 1928 was but half the battle for the possession of the mountain. In 1930, \$55,000 had to be raised to purchase the Giant's head from its owner, Mrs. Willis Cook; and the quarry lease which still had eighteen years to run, was bought in 1933 for \$30,000. The leader in this stupendous project was Arnold G. Dana, who as a boy of twelve in 1875 fell two hundred feet from the precipice on the Giant's head, while attempting with three companions to descend the face of the rock. He miraculously escaped injury other than broken bones, and was carried to his Hillhouse Avenue home by Willis Miller of the Mount Carmel Axle Works, and by the older Orrin Dickerman.

Mr. Dana's subsequent devotion to the Giant that preserved his life in its bosom on that fateful day was the impelling force by which this staggering sum of

money was raised. The benefactor, who came back after an absence of fifty-five years to play the part of little David, was the younger son of James Dwight Dana, professor of geology at Yale, and the grandson of another Yale scientist, Benjamin Silliman.

In the midst of the campaign for saving the mountain, the Sleeping Giant Association brought suit against the quarry company, in 1931. The principal issue at the trial was the provision in the quarry lease which forbade any quarrying in sight of Mount Carmel Avenue, to the south of the Giant's head. The Association interpreted the clause to mean that *no bare rock* should show from the road on the south, while the quarry company's interpretation was that the quarry should not *face* the road.

In an opinion favorable to the Association, Judge Carl Foster said:

Illustration is dangerous, but suppose in wars of the past, the besieger warned the defender of the citadel that if the latter showed his face at any opening in the wall, the besieger would shoot. If the defender showed *half* his face, would he be heard to complain if the besieger's missile found its mark? If the quarry company's contention be carried to its logical conclusion, then 99 per cent of the rock exposed by quarrying might show on Mount Carmel Avenue, and yet they would feel that they had not violated this covenant.

On an appeal to the Supreme Court, Judge Foster's opinion was sustained.

At the Association's well-earned celebration in October, 1933, President Dana remarked,

If asked why the money was forthcoming in 1930 for the purchase of the land, though vainly sought in earlier years; and how it came about that \$30,000 for

the quarry lease was so quickly raised [in one month's time] in 1933—it was in both cases because of the critical situation; the measures taken to protect the head were rendered imperative by the scalping process on the poor old Giant's pate, which was making such rapid progress that in a few months more, there would have been nothing there worth saving. Then the late proposal of the quarry company to open a new quarry high on the northwestern side of the head, compelled immediate action.

Hamden should be foremost in continuous gratitude to the generous, public-spirited people who made possible the permanent security of the mountain from further defacement, and who gave to the Giant the priceless gift of uninterrupted slumbers through eternity; for the Sleeping Giant is the outstanding, imposing landmark of our town, seen and recognized for miles by land and sea.

CHURCH CENTENNIAL

The Whitneyville Congregational Church celebrated in 1934 the one hundredth anniversary of the erection of its meetinghouse. Representatives of the other churches, both Catholic and Protestant, attended and spoke with good will and fellowship of their mutual concern for the religious welfare of the town. The church's location, so close to the green banks and beautiful waters of Lake Whitney, affords an unparalleled view from its windows. On that day of celebration in this house of God, saturated with a hundred years of faith and devotion, there came forcefully to the worshipers the utter appropriateness of the Psalm,

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. . . . He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my

soul. . . . Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SCHOOL GROWTH

Religious instruction to pupils in the seventh and eighth grades was made available in an expanding public-school program, in which piano classes under Carl J. Jensen, and instruction in stringed and wind instruments, was given by the New Haven Institute of Music.

Work on the construction of a high-school building proceeded slowly, owing to the necessity of obtaining the approval of both Federal and state authorities. Through the issuance of bonds by the town, \$700,000 was made available, PWA reimbursing them approximately \$165,000. The town made further appropriation of \$50,000 to furnish and equip the building. Designed by R. W. Foote and erected by the Industrial Construction Company, the building was finished and dedicated on October 18, 1935, with appropriate ceremonies. It was a thoroughly modern school, with fifty-two classrooms, auditorium, sixteen offices, cafeteria, four gymnasiums, shops, and shower rooms. The new principal, Dr. Herbert Landry, and forty-six teachers began classes for the 1,200 pupils who entered.

Raymond Collins, who had been the faithful and efficient chairman of the School Board for nineteen years, retired from the Board. He had guided the educational affairs of Hamden during the most difficult period of the rapid growth of the town.

The high school was by no means the only important change in the affairs of Hamden in 1935, for George Warner finished his long term of leadership as first

selectman, which he had held since 1918, and he was succeeded by F. Raymond Rochford who brought to the office the trained mind of a lawyer and many years experience in Hamden's legal and financial affairs.

Another change in the administrative department of the town government was brought about by the death of Almon J. Deane who had been town clerk for more than twenty-five years. His genial, invariable good temper was a bright spot in the town hall, and this tradition was happily continued by his successor, Michael J. Whalen, whose incumbency marked the beginning of salary payment to the town clerk instead of the old fee system.

THINGS THAT CAME AND WENT

The *Hamden Times* newspaper, at first under the editorship of Daniel Prince and later under Warren Brainard and William Davis, was published weekly, and its press was housed in the historic building in Centerville which had been the scene of old town meetings. The paper, a short-lived competitor to the two New Haven papers, was never a financial success.

Day Spring Lodge, following the razing of the old town hall, had occupied temporary rented quarters in Centerville while they accumulated funds for a building of their own. In 1933 their Temple was built where Centerville trotting park had been, two blocks north of the central corner.

The repeal of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1932 caused a unique and unprecedented joint meeting of the Democratic and Republican town committees, in which they harmoniously set up the plans for getting out the vote—a circumstance which is not likely to be

repeated. Repeal added new sources of revenue to the town treasury, the first of which came from the state in the subsequent issuance of beer permits.

Pine Rock, notable for its early geological interest and the Indian Cave, as well as the Blakeslee Company's quarry business was greatly changed when they set off 20 tons of dynamite there, which lifted 180,000 tons of rock and dropped it 40 feet away. The blast was the last of importance at the quarry, substantially exhausting the usable material there, where for forty years the plant had yielded millions of tons of trap-rock for construction and foundation work.

SESQUICENTENNIAL

The year 1936 marked the 150th birthday of Hamden as a municipality, and First Selectman Rochford invited representatives of all religious, civic, fraternal, and patriotic organizations of the town to form a committee to plan an appropriate celebration of the sesquicentennial. This central committee, which divided itself into the necessary number of subcommittees in charge of details, was comprised of: Arthur H. Adams, Recreation Board; Harry D. Alling, Day Spring Lodge, Masons; William H. Avis, Press; William H. Balke, Selectman; Floyd A. Beecher, Hamden Plains Church; Leon A. Booth, American Legion, Post No. 88; Jeremiah Camorota, Italian-American Club; Manley E. Chester, Historical Society; Fiore Ciccone, Crosswell Lodge, Odd Fellows; Rev. George Cooley, Whitneyville Church; Miss Gladys Crook, Girl's Reliance Club; Mrs. William J. Curren, Colony Club; Mrs. Robert L. Eaton, Mount Carmel Book Club; Roland

C. Finley, Grace Episcopal Church; Bernard J. Fitch, Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; George P. Fitch, Selectman; George D. Ford, Mount Carmel Congregational Church; Mrs. George D. Ford, Mount Carmel Civic Club; Miss Angelina Funaro, St. Ann's Church; Mrs. Robert Gibson, Hamden Music Club; Goldwin H. Graham, Chamber of Commerce; John H. Hamilton, St. Rita's Church; Mrs. Amelia Hansen, Alice Chapter, O. E. S.; Mrs. Thomas Hartley, Thimble Club; Mrs. Howard Hine, Norwood Club; Mrs. Hamilton Ingersol, Whitneyville Community Club; George J. Kimler, St. Stephen's Church; Mrs. Harold Lewis, Dunbar Community Club; Mrs. Sadye Maguire, United Social Club; Mrs. B. Hartley Mann, Visiting Nurse Association; Edward A. Nichols, Disabled American Veterans; Mrs. John Nichols, American Legion Auxiliary; Fred C. Olsen, St. John the Baptist Church; Miss Alice Peck, West Woods Civic Club; Arthur J. Ralph, Historical Society; F. Raymond Rochford, First Selectman; Mrs. Clayton Shores, Whitneyville Woman's Club; Roscoe Steffen, Church of Christ in Spring Glen; Stephen J. Terani, St. Stephen's Church; George Warner, Ex-Selectman; Michael J. Whalen, Press; Mrs. Arthur Woodruff, Red Cross.

Mr. Rochford issued a proclamation:

Commencing today, Hamden will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its town government. We may properly feel just pride in the founders of our town, and in their successors who have carried on the development of Hamden.

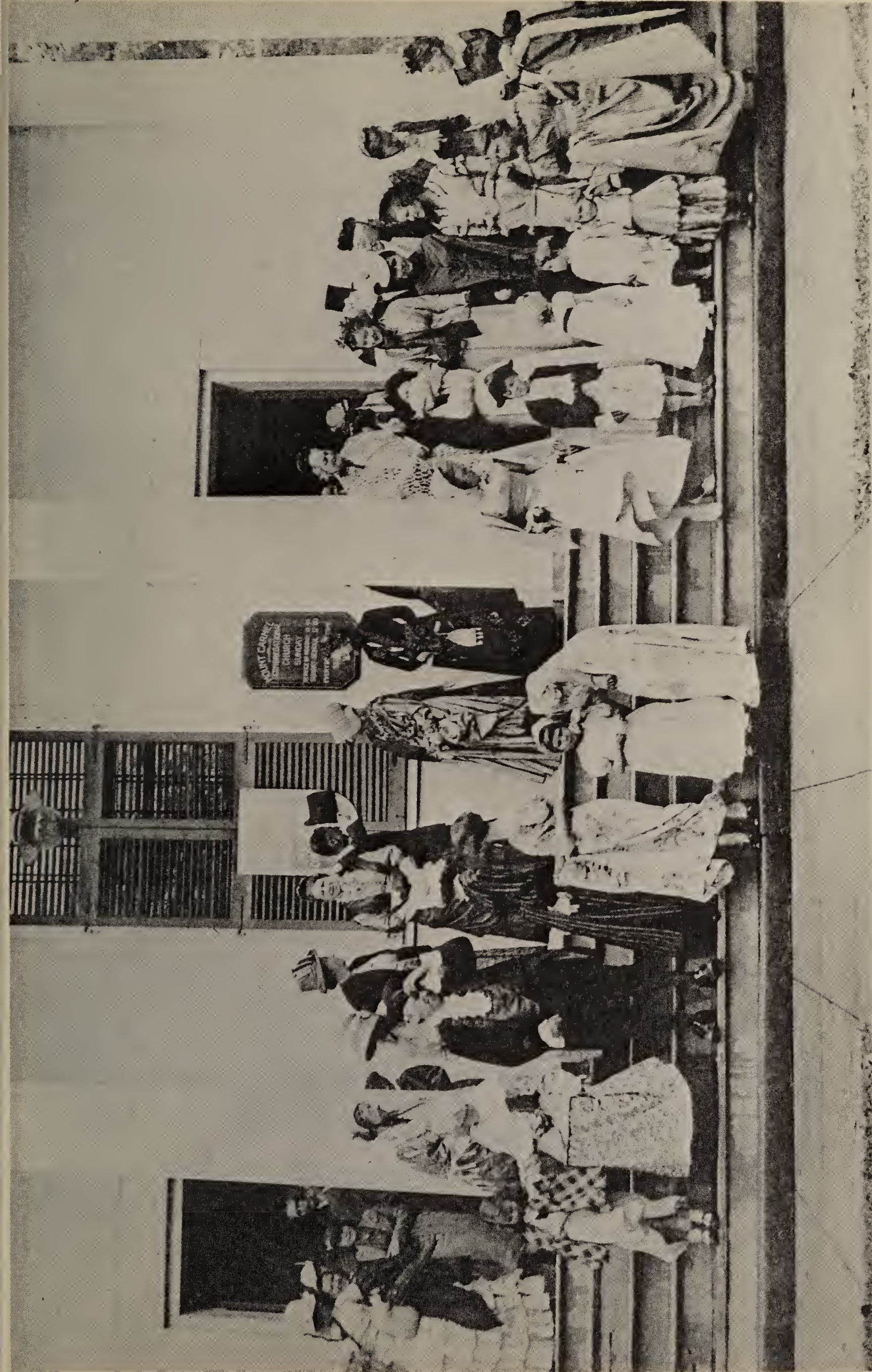
Many residents of other towns in Connecticut and of other states have through their forefathers, ties and connections with Hamden, and we now invite them to come and visit with us.

To others we also extend a sincere welcome. On June 14, 15 and 16 there will be formal functions, exhibitions and festivities, all of which we trust will be interesting and entertaining. June 16, which day marks the 150th anniversary of our first town meeting, will be observed as a holiday.

In behalf of the people of the town of Hamden, I invite all townspeople, neighbors and friends of Hamden, to join in commemorating the 150th anniversary of Hamden.

In advertising the celebration, two thousand pairs of automobile markers were sold, bearing the words "Come to Hamden's 150th anniversary June 14, 15, and 16." Green and gold gummed stickers designed by Alexander Murdoch, picturing the town hall, and with the message, "Welcome to Hamden Sesquicentennial Celebration June 14, 15, 16, 1786-1936," were used by the hundreds on letters and packages. A bright neon sign was affixed to the front of the town hall: "1786-Hamden-1936." The booklet and souvenir committee published a 35-page booklet containing brief historical matter, pictures and the celebration program. They also issued 500 copper coins commemorative of the occasion, bearing a likeness of the Sleeping Giant on one side and Eli Whitney's achievements on the other.

Nine evening broadcasts from radio station WELI were presented by prominent citizens, calling attention to interesting features of the coming activities. Many of the oldest houses in the town were labeled with the name of the builder and the date. The only one-room schoolhouse still in use in Hamden, in West Woods, was painted red to make it more realistically in keeping with old times.



Mount Carmel Churchgoers in Costume on Sesquicentennial Sunday



Sesquicentennial Group at Town Hall



Part of Sesquicentennial Parade, showing Selectmen's Carriage

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

At 11 A.M. services in the Mount Carmel Congregational Church were conducted in the same manner as the ancient Sabbath procedure held there in 1761, and the congregation came attired in period costumes. Old collection boxes were used and the communion table was set with the original pewter service and a tablecloth eighty-one years old.

At 1 P.M. the firemen held memorial services at the Whitneyville firehouse hall, honoring members who had died. This service is a yearly custom, observed by fire companies throughout the state on the same day, which by chance this year fell on Hamden's celebration date.

At 1.45 P.M. a town-wide religious service under the direction of Reverend George Cooley of the Whitneyville Church was held in the high school, attended by seven hundred people. Mr. Rochford spoke briefly, and the local clergymen who took part were Reverend Matthew Brady of St. Rita's, Reverend Harry Poole of Grace Church, Reverend William Jackson of Hamden Plains Church, and Reverend John Reilly of St. Ann's. The address, "The Founders of Connecticut, America's First Pioneers" was delivered by Reverend Dr. Rockwell H. Potter, Dean of the Hartford Seminary Foundation.

A pageant, "In the Valley of the Blue Hills," which depicted the history of Hamden, was presented by over 350 local participants under the direction of the author, Miss Laretta Plumley, in Montgomery's Field on Mount Carmel Avenue in the shadow of the Sleeping Giant's head, to an appreciative audience of six thousand people.

The industrial exhibit in the Auditorium of the town hall was visited throughout the celebration by interested crowds, viewing the displays of twenty-eight local groups. Equal interest was shown in the exhibits at the Historical Society's old red house on Mount Carmel Avenue, at the Mount Carmel Library, and in the town-hall committee room, which included military trophies and flags, ancient maps which showed the location of houses in the town, spinning wheels, beautiful old homespun cloth, furniture, dishes, and clothing.

MONDAY

Under the training and direction of Miss Keane and Miss Andrus, one thousand school children presented a patriotic festival at Webb Field on Monday afternoon. At 4.30 P.M., sixteen memorial trees—eight on the north boundary of the high school and eight on the south—were dedicated and named in honor of the sixteen first selectmen of the last fifty years. The trees were given for this purpose by Walter Wirth, superintendent of the New Haven Park Department, and Joseph Barry. Mr. Rochford presented the president of the Hamden Historical Society, Manley E. Chester, as the speaker for the occasion, who said:

The town is justly proud of its sixteen stalwart leaders who have so ably managed our affairs these last fifty years. It has not always been easy in a town of this size to satisfy the many local points of view. With so many outlying sections needing local consideration, it has always taken tact and patience, love of their fellowmen, and consideration of the town as a whole, to satisfy all needs within the budget. We feel, however, that these selectmen are representative men of Hamden. The present generation is showing the same

interest and responsibility in town affairs as their predecessors have done. We feel that the future years will be in good hands.

Of Mr. Rochford, Mr. Chester said:

Our present first selectman needs no tree or milestone at this time. He is demonstrating his keen ability to manage the town's affairs, and the citizens of the town have confidence that Hamden's "ship of state" will be safely guided through any troubled waters which may surround it. His will be the first tree and milestone of the second century of the town which will be celebrated in 1986.

A musical program was presented in the high school auditorium in the evening by Walter West, pianist; Katharine Grimes, violinist; and vocalists Caroline Thorpe, Ruth Brown, James Morton, and the Hamden Music Club chorus. Prizes for winners in the essay contest were awarded to Betty Booth in the junior-high-school class for "Early Hamden"; to Gladys Jackson in the high-school class for "Hamden's Past Fifty Years"; and in the open class to Rachel Hartley for "A Plan for Hamden's Future."

At 10 P.M. a spectacular display of fireworks was shown on the high-school grounds, with accompanying concert by the high-school band.

TUESDAY

Tuesday was the culminating high point of the three-day celebration, starting at 9.30 A.M. with a program of school athletics at Legion Field. At 12.30, a parade of major proportions took place. The vehicular division went from the town hall down Dixwell Avenue to

Morse Street, to Newhall, to Putnam, to Whitney, and, joined at the Web Shop bridge by the foot division, proceeded to Legion Field. It was reviewed from a stand in front of the Masonic Temple by the three encumbent selectmen, and former First Selectmen George Warner, Arthur Woodruff, John Davis, and Edward Sanford.

Led with dignity and precision by the veteran marshal Benjamin Bamford, the full parade was in the following order: Benjamin Bamford, marshal; Town officials, citizen's committee; 102nd Infantry Band; Hamden Police Department; Fire Department; Highwood V. F. A.; Hamden's oldest fire apparatus; Second Company Governor's Foot Guard, and Fife and Drum Corps; New Haven Grays; Horse guards; Sons of American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps; American Legion, Post 88; Disabled American Veterans; Highland Heights Drum and Bugle Corps; Girl Scouts—Boy Scouts; Hamden Grammar School Band; Meriden School for Boys Band; Mount Carmel Church (old straw picnic wagon); First District Republican Club Tally-Ho; Visiting Nurse Association float; Brock-Hall Dairy float (three old-style horse-drawn milk wagons); Norwood Club carriage; American Legion float; United Social Club float; Connecticut Doughnut Company float; St. Ann's Church float; West Woods Circle float; Chamber of Commerce float; Whitneyville Community Club float; Dunbar Hill Community Club float; Red Cross float; Glen Terrace Nursery float; a 1914 Ford sedan (Anthony Raccio); Mr. DeVecchia store float; Hamden Laundry float; O. & F. garage float; Terrani Bros. (builders) float; Giant Valley Fuel Company float; Mount Carmel Civic Club auto; Hamden Building Tile float; Hamden Provision Company; Goodman machines.

Prizes were awarded to the floats of the American Legion Post 88, depicting an old horse-drawn canal boat; to the West Woods Circle for their replica of the old red schoolhouse complete with teacher and pupils; and to the Red Cross Chapter for their effective and appropriately decorated float. When two years later the city of New Haven celebrated its tercentenary, the Legion canal-boat float was Hamden's entry in their parade.

Upon the arrival of the parade at Legion Field, the crowd of several thousand people stood at attention during the raising of the flag and the playing of the national anthem. First Selectman Rochford welcomed the gathering and thanked the people of the town for helping to make the celebration a success. At his request the four ex-selectmen rose and were heartily applauded. Judge John L. Gilson, chairman of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, gave an address in which he drew attention to old family names of Hamden which had come down through the proud years of the town's growth — "Dickermans, Gilberts, Allings, Mixes, Hitchcocks, and a host of Warners." He spoke of our old town meetings as uplifting and inspiring, and said,

In this present atmosphere of tranquility, recollections of the early lives of the founders of Hamden must come back to rouse a nameless responsive thrill of something deep within us. Like morning mists on Hamden's own immovable mountain, cling magic memories of her pioneers; raising a throb in every heart that loves liberty, rekindling the fires of patriotism in our own breasts, and engendering never-ceasing admiration for its splendid exemplification in their lives.

The afternoon ended with a baseball game in which a team composed of so-called "old timers," appropriate-

ly in keeping with the nature of the celebration defeated the high-school team, 6-2. In the evening at the high school, Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Sorcerer* was performed by the Hamden WPA adult education project.

The three days' devotion to the enactment of scenes and events of our town's proud past brought together people of all ages and of varied interests from the ten villages whose activities so rarely coincided, in a happy realization of mutual pride in the history of their own town. That history, thus touching them closely, became of more vivid importance, and no one who participated as either actor or spectator could fail to be inspired by the past and imbued with a wish to take personal part in the future accomplishments of Hamden.

Part V

The Old Order Changeth

PART V

THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH

AT the age of 150 years Hamden did not settle down into a pattern of comfortable routine—she took a deep breath and launched into a strenuous and far-sighted program of getting ahead, determined to take maximum good care of the children, have the best possible government, and keep a watchful eye on the pocketbook. Change—more than anything else—and with a capital C—has been the pronounced characteristic of her past 23 years. Change in the form of government and in all of the municipal departments; areas which had been agricultural became wholly residential developments; industrial firms grew and increased in number; shopping centers, the Cross Parkway and better roads changed travel patterns; and schools expanded and multiplied.

The selectmen, almost reluctantly, attached as they were to the old New England town meeting, asked a group of 16 people to serve as a committee to study the town's governmental structure with an eye to the possibility of needed changes. The committee, made up of representatives from the various municipal branches, labored diligently for months but "brought forth a mouse" with recommendations for the merging of the Town Plan and the Zoning Boards, the appointment rather than the election of assessors and the Board of Tax Review; concerns of the dog and the tree wardens; and a pension plan and Civil Service for town employees. Cautiously the committee, rather than recommending it, suggested as "desirable" the reduction of the School Board membership from nine to seven.

But need for a change in form of government was becoming more and more evident as attendance at town meetings was chiefly of pressure groups whose purpose was to put through measures in their own interest. The Representative Town Meeting composed of 49 members was instituted in 1953. Voters, who now come from seven instead of five voting districts and have the privilege to speak but not to vote in town meeting, show little interest in appearing. Among other forms of government which have been talked about as most suitable for the town as its size and magnitude increase, are council-manager and straight city-mayor forms.

The town's bonded indebtedness was reduced from \$1,328,000 to \$920,000 in the period between 1935 and 1942 and the tax rate was lowered a half-mill to $21\frac{1}{2}$ mills—a circumstance not likely to recur. The rate in 20-odd years has advanced to $33\frac{1}{2}$ mills; while the grand list which was \$43,181,668 in 1936 has become \$154,200,000. The tax rate is now set at an adjourned town meeting in February: Property re-assessment was made in 1952 following the survey made by the Cleminshaw Company.

The law suit which the town had instituted against the surety company for the treasurer's defaulted bond at the time of the Hamden Bank failure, was won by the town after appeals had been made, up to the refusal of the Supreme Court to hear the case, and the amount paid the town, including interest, was \$80,636.40.

In the depression years when the relief load rose to a high of 881 in 1939, the selectmen were typically careful of even the smallest detail concerning money matters—lumber from an old house razed on town property was used to build a storage shed near the town hall; and those taxpayers who were financially unable

to pay their assessments but who were able-bodied, were allowed to "work out" their taxes on the roads.

With customary pride in Hamden's ability to manage to stay financially sound, the selectmen boasted that no relief bonds had been floated during the depression. There was no significance to the coincidence that the additions made to the town hall at that time were to the tax office and a new police "lock-up".

Seventy-five local boys went to Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps, and at the time that Old Age Assistance was abolished 153 people were enrolled. As many as 150 people were working with Works Progress Administration (WPA) and among the projects undertaken that contributed much to the scenic assets of the town were the pathway up the Sleeping Giant and the look-out tower at the top; and Baldwin Drive, for which funds were furnished by the government as a memorial to Governor Simeon E. Baldwin, who had left \$150,000 toward it. The drive runs for six miles along the western border of Hamden from West Rock Park entrance to West Shepard Avenue, and among the beautiful views it affords is a full panorama of the town.

In the 1940 registration of men 21 to 35 for the draft, 3,000 responded; and as the war went on the honor roll on the site of the Miller Library added leaf after leaf to include the eventual roster of 3,300 names, and of this number 77 gave their lives. Their names were engraved on a wall of the town hall rotunda, as were four which represented the gold star men who perished in the Korean conflict. A practice has been made of naming new streets in Hamden after war dead. A War Memorial Committee of 46 people pondered long and seriously, narrowing their choice for recommenda-

tion to a veterans' building, a library, and a recreation center, with the latter brought before a town meeting which rejected it.

Citizens played an active part in war services. There were in 1946, 62 Land Army Girls who helped farmers with weeding and picking vegetables in the county, and they were housed in the Giant Valley clubhouse (the golf course was at that time inactive). An air raid warning system was set up, and 125 men served as Civil Defense auxiliary police. The Ration Board had quarters in the Centerville School. A radio room was established in the town hall tower, and faithful Ground Observer Corps watchers scanned the sky from that point. Victory gardens were made available to the public by the town in Bassett Park, Pine Rock field and the Webb property in Spring Glen.

An advisory center was set up in 1946, and hundreds of veterans called upon Walter Connor for its services, which he continued to give in the years since he has been town clerk. A second American Legion group was formed, in Highwood, as were chapters of AmVets, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, and Italian War Veterans.

Both food and fuel conservation committees functioned in 1947; the high price of meat brought about a short time boycott; and for a number of cold weather months public buildings were not used evenings in the interest of saving fuel.

The cement paving of Whitney Avenue by the state from Cliff Street north to Todd Street included tearing out trolley tracks, and buses became the new transportation medium. In this project was a new bridge over Lake Whitney at a safer angle; and the lake within two years was re-bridged at Davis Street. Assistant Town Engineer Frederick Oberlin designed the

structure, and after his death in 1938 it was dedicated to him. Honoring his outstanding war record, memorial stained glass windows were installed in the town hall rotunda.

In the space of five years bridges were constructed over the railroad tracks at Mather Street and Treadwell Street, and the railroad shared the expense of bridges that carried the tracks over Putnam Avenue, Skiff Street, Sanford Street and West Woods Road.

Dr. George Joslin's long service as part-time health officer ended in 1939, and Dr. Walter Lay succeeded him. A public health survey of Hamden was made in that year under the direction of Dr. Ira Hiscock by the Public Health Department of the Yale School of Medicine, and many of the suggestions made were acted upon. A sanitary inspector was appointed in 1940, and in 1946 Dr. Leonard Parente was named Hamden's first full-time health director.

An outstanding project in school health was the use of fluorine on children's teeth for the prevention of tooth decay. Ours was the first school system in Connecticut to test this process. At the end of two years the record showed a 40 per cent decline in tooth decay. The Hamden school system was again among the first to have inoculations of the Salk vaccine for the prevention of polio in 1954; and clinics were also held for adults. Hamden well remembered the frightening time in 1943 when there had been 18 cases of polio and two deaths. Town employees were given Asian flu vaccine in the epidemic of 1958.

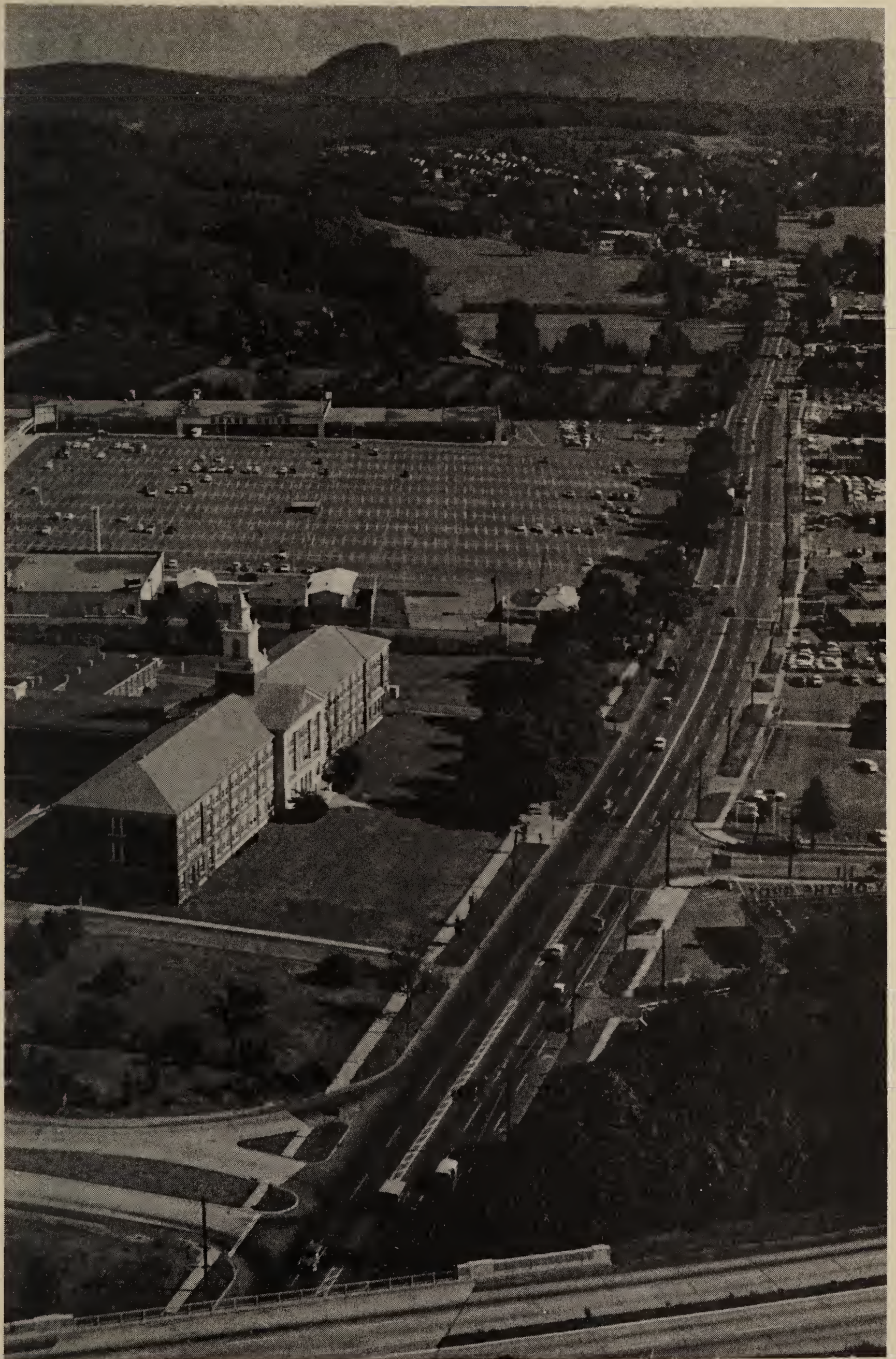
In 1940 there was a definite revival of both residential and industrial building, with several sizeable real estate developments, and the erection of such large factories as High Standard and Botwinik Bros., and extensive additions to Acme Wire and Whitney Blake

companies. But by 1942, government restrictions were felt, requiring that only low cost houses could be built, and only veterans' houses in the housing shortage of 1946. But by 1947 Hamden was surpassing nine neighboring towns in home building. Home building has steadily continued, and in a number of developments contractors failed some of the necessary requirements, especially of roads. Town Engineer Elwood Nettleton recently sponsored a town regulation which now requires pre-qualification of contractors for public contracts.

When Dick's Pond was drained and seven acres of land thus reclaimed, there was made possible not only a recreation field and an addition to the play area of Church Street School, but sites for 63 state-aid houses.

The three privately-sponsored libraries turned over their facilities to the town when the Library Board was set up in 1943, and three library buildings were erected in 1950, in Whitneyville, in the west side of town, and the one in Centerville in part financed with the Miller Memorial fund. The leadership in library service for Hamden has been outstandingly that of Charles Ducey, continuously chairman of the Library Board except for its first few months, an able speaker and worker in library interests. The same year brought the buildings of the Jewish Center, the Spring Glen Church, and Post 88 American Legion.

Three new post office quarters came—in the new business building at the corner of Whitney Avenue and Ives Street in Mount Carmel, a new building in Whitneyville on Putnam Avenue, and one on Scott Street on the west side. The *Hamden Chronicle* weekly newspaper begun in 1946 by Marshall and Richard Harris is now published by Charles Lenahan. An impressive number of bank branches and insurance companies have located in Hamden.



The Giant Views Change and Progress

Photo by Ana-films



The Sleeping Giant

Courtesy of A. J. Tefft

The police headquarters building was erected next to the Miller Library, and at that time the department had the notable addition of a detective bureau, and the town's first policewoman, Bertha Shea.

With the establishment of this new civic building, attention was once more given to the 68-acre nearby Meadowbrook property and the oft-mentioned possibilities it offered for a civic center in which the town could fully accommodate its municipal buildings for years to come. The price in 1950 was \$250,000. The professional planning groups had advised the town to buy it, but the town officials could not see making the expenditure while other pressing necessities had to be met. By 1956 the price was \$450,000.

The up-to-date building code adopted in 1949 had soon to add a new provision, for WNHC whose two radio towers stand in bold relief against the sky off Circular Avenue, had set up a transmitter on Gaylord Mountain and had established the first television broadcasting service in the state; causing the necessity for an ordinance to control television aerials.

On Dixwell Avenue the A & P store and Sears, Roebuck were the significant beginning of a radical change in the grouping of shopping areas. The coming of the Plaza super-shopping center, and subsequently the Hamden Mart nearby, were to some extent influenced in locating here by the Cross Parkway which makes Hamden businesses readily accessible to a maximum number of distant areas. Traffic problems of the town are most noticeable on Dixwell Avenue, and the planned extension of Skiff Street to Mix Avenue will by no means solve the matter.

When Connolly Parkway was constructed from the rear of Spring Glen to Dixwell Avenue, its convenience for high school students was largely in mind, but it now

serves a larger use. The voters who came to the oldtime town meeting which acted on the name of the extremely short thoroughfare, were there chiefly for this one interest—for no comments or criticisms on the proposed \$1,100,000 annual town budget were voiced.

One of the numerous agitations which have plagued the zoning authorities since the merging of the Town Plan and the Zoning Boards in 1947, was the move to re-zone Dixwell Avenue to Robert Street. One of the first long drawn out tussles, not the last to be taken into the courts, was the status of Paradise Park under private ownership, the town winning the suit and the owner turning the recreational area over to a social organization.

Over the years there has been much talk of the need for a master plan of zoning for Hamden, and the Technical Planning Associates were employed in 1950, producing a pilot plan; Maurice Rotival's advice was engaged in 1953, and five years later John Blackwell was asked to assist the zoning authorities. Lengthy hearings punctuated by angry citizen-opponents' protests, have continued to take place; among them the matter of a food locker in West Woods, an apartment house in Whitneyville, a business area extension in Spring Glen which involved appeal to the courts; and most recently the up-zoning of property in the north end of the town which does not have sewers.

Sewers have been constructed on the east side and more recently on the west side of Hamden, as well as in the Mill Rock area; but extension of sewers above Spring Glen has been delayed. As far back as 1936 there was a petition made that Public Works Administration federal funds be sought, and in 1943 serious study of the area was made; but the 1947 hearing on the matter showed such strenuous opposition that nothing

was done. While the town has maintained a garbage collection, the matter of trash and refuse disposal has been the householders' problem. The Welton Street dump was closed in 1942 and town authorities confidently expected to erect on that site an incinerator, the design for which was made by an architectural firm.

The sum of \$165,000 was earmarked for such a building. In 1946 the zoning board changed the classification of the site from "industry" to "zone for municipal purposes of garbage and refuse disposal". Public reaction in the east side neighborhood was violent opposition.

Meantime the Arch Street dump near Pine Rock Avenue has recently been closed, and North Haven has made available for Hamden's temporary use the dump on Sackett Point Road. A Citizens Action Committee headed by Health Director Dr. Leonard Parente, was appointed in 1957 to recommend the town's next step, and with counsel from Pirnie sanitary engineers, the committee proposed the landfill disposal method in the salt meadows off State Street.

Whether or not Hamden deserved the appellation "bedroom of New Haven" inasmuch as the residences of a great number of New Haven industrial and business men as well as of Yale faculty members are in Hamden, there was no doubt that New Haven's expansion would have to be northward as its population grew. Hamden's rapidly increasing residential developments housed a great number of young families whose chief motivation in coming here was the fine school system for which Hamden was noted. The growth of Hamden's population from 21,500 in 1936 to its present 40,000 saw a rise in school enrollment from 5,386 to today's 7,331. A tremendous school building program began, in which new auditoriums were added to five

schools—State Street, Helen Street, Church Street, Mount Carmel and Putnam Avenue, as well as more classrooms. The old Dixwell Avenue wooden school was torn down and nearby Pine Street School was renamed in honor of the school superintendent Margaret L. Keefe.

Dunbar and Alice Peck Schools were built, and in 1950 four-room additions were necessary for Church Street and Helen Street and auditoriums for Spring Glen and Newhall Schools. In 1954 six rooms were added to Mount Carmel and in 1958 the same number to Alice Peck.

In 1954 the Englehardt Company was asked to make a survey of the school system, which had suffered the loss of teachers to towns which had raised pay scales faster than ours. Special town meetings in both 1946 and 1949 voted raises in teacher salaries. Just as there had been the formation in 1936 of a citizen group (the Education Council) that studied school matters, there was in 1946 the organization of the Citizens for Better Schools.

A special town meeting was held in 1936 on the Education Council's petition, in which less than one-fourth of the registered voters bothered to vote. The move to reduce the School Board from its then 12 members to five was defeated 1,091 for and 1,331 against; and the move to name School Board members by non-partisan petition choice was defeated 996 for and 1,406 against. The fifth district actually was carried for both proposals.

Miss Keefe's retirement in 1954 marked the end of a 43-year incumbency in the position of superintendent, and no small part of the reputation Hamden enjoyed for having good schools was due to her wise guidance. David Wyllie became superintendent, and had at once

to deal with a pronounced change in the school system, in which the Michael J. Whalen and Sleeping Giant Junior High Schools were built, with Ernest McVey and Joseph Regan respectively as principals. The high school became a three-year course and G. Harold Lloyd became principal after Wilfred Moody's retirement. The last eighth grade graduations were held in 1955, and soon after came the final act that closed an era—the abandonment of West Woods School, the last of the “little red schoolhouses”, and we had entered the big time in educational procedure.

St. Rita's parochial school in Spring Glen added another note to the never-done-before pattern, and the Sacred Heart School for Girls became a part of the convent on Cherry Hill. Quinnipiac College, which absorbed Larson Junior College became our first accredited four-year college. In an agreement made with the town, the now tax-free institution set up a plan in which six scholarships are given annually to Hamden students recommended by the selectmen.

On Jones Road, the State Board of Education built the Eli Whitney Technical Training School which serves area towns. The state also built the Child Study & Treatment Home on the 50-acre High Meadows plot off Ridge Road.

While the West Woods School was given to the volunteer fire association there was quite foreseeably a short life for its volunteer nature. It is situated in the last nominally rural area of the town, and will undoubtedly soon become a part of the town's fire department.

In other parts of the town the passing of the volunteer companies was slow. The Highwood company proudly celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1947, but by 1951 its building was abandoned and its territory

absorbed by the Humphrey Company. But maintenance of the buildings they owned in both Humphrey (on Circular Avenue) and Whitneyville, forced both groups to sell out to the town. North Haven at last organized a fire station on Ridge Road, which brought termination of the long-practiced custom of services in that area from Hamden.

Charles Loller who had been a colorful and able fire chief for a long time ended his duties in 1942, and Raymond Spencer has taken his place. When Albert Purce became fire marshal in 1944, no one had held the official position since the first selectman had relinquished such duties in 1936.

The Red Cross bloodbank program began statewide in 1949, in which regular visits of the bloodmobile were made to the town for the collection of pints of blood from local donors. The local branch bought the Gilbert Peck house; one of the many achievements under the more than 25 years of Mrs. Robert L. R. Eaton's chairmanship. The first Red Cross-sponsored swimming classes for children were conducted in the pool which Dallas Thomas made available on his property, and in 1950 Paradise Park began to serve this purpose.

While hundreds of children have been taught to swim, there are hundreds more who have no opportunity to learn. From time to time there has been a movement to plan a public pool for the town, but Hamden is in a watershed area which precludes the installation of a pool in many desirable places. An extremely active committee under the energetic leadership of Francis McNamara made valiant efforts in 1947, but the maintenance cost as well as the paucity of locations, defeated it. Efforts to have a pool included in the plans for the Sleeping Giant Junior High School were unavailing

because the area is not sewerred. With present prospects of an addition to the high school, once more hopes are raised that at last there are no physical reasons against a pool.

Planning for recreation fields which began with the acquisition of land on Newhall Street for Rochford Field, continued; the "new" Legion Field was dedicated on Memorial Day 1942; development of Pine Rock, Bassett Park, Hamden Plains Field, and the field in Centerville behind the Legion building went forward; and a wholly new and challenging recreational area came under the department's charge when the town turned over to it the 104 acres of the erstwhile town farm, which had ceased to operate when inmates dwindled to three in 1947. Camping facilities, a nature center, and many other projects can be carried out there.

The Golden Age Club was organized by recreation supervisor Robert Fitzgerald in 1956, and many older people enjoy its activities—such as do not go to Florida! Many Hamden residents of retirement age have either made their home in the southern state or spend their winters there. A Leisure Council which includes advisors from recreation, library, police and health departments, helps plan wholesome public activities.

The Better Boys Brigade, organized by Dominic Malaro in Highwood in 1944, had a large membership, and the high point of the year was the dinner at the Colonial House which was earned by those who had achieved an A in conduct in school for a year. A number of prominent town officials served as waiters. A yearly activity was the pushmobile derby.

The police department has a PAL (Police Athletic League) program, which conducts a similar soapbox

derby. While juvenile delinquency has not been alarming, it has been present. For several recent years, damaging mischief at Hallowe'en has been curbed by enforcement of a curfew.

After 20 years in which the circus came to Hamden every summer in the old airport grounds, an amendment to the amusement ordinance was made in 1947 requiring an entranceway of no less than 250 front feet to a circus; so, like the ban on fireworks for Fourth of July, one more happy fun-day for children was no more.

Hurricanes, previously an unfamiliar weather type, visited us in 1938, 1944 and 1950, and unlike some other areas, Hamden had less damage in the first one than in the last which did \$600,000 damage. In 1948 there was a winter with 21 storms and 71 inches of snow, with a real heat wave in the following July. It was in a July electric storm of more than ordinary violence that three members of the Dorman family were killed by lightning, and others injured as they picknicked near a large tree. Not only did hurricanes cause the loss of many trees, but so did Dutch elm disease which killed 265 in 1946.

F. Raymond Rochford ended his service as first selectman before the end of a term, for he was elected to the judgeship of the newly established probate court in 1947. Gertrude Collins who had been his official secretary became clerk of the court. No subsequent head of the government has had such a long period of service as did Edward Sanford, George Warner and Mr. Rochford.

Michael J. Whalen held the office until Leon Booth was elected in 1951, and a special election was held to fill the position of third selectman following the withdrawal of the elected candidate James P. Doherty. Albert Connolly was elected.

History repeated itself in the Democratic victory in 1955 when Herbert Hume defeated Mr. Booth, and the Hamden Democrats gained control for the first time in over 50 years. The same situation had occurred at the turn of the century when a 50-year Republican reign was broken. Also in repeated pattern was the circumstance of a single term, followed by return to Republican administration. When John DeNicola was elected in 1957, Mr. Hume gracefully took up the third selectman's duties which he had held before.

The town court was also affected by political changes, in the state, and a Democratic court functioned in 1949 and since 1955. A decided change is pending, in the so-called court reform enacted by the 1959 legislature, which provides for abolishment of town courts in Connecticut and setting up district courts, to become effective in 1961. Following Mr. Rochford's death, John McNerney has been probate judge.

Town employees gained a retirement plan in 1949 and in that year the Griffenhagen firm made a study and recommendations concerning salaries, which were promptly increased in a special town meeting. Again in 1951 a special town meeting gave employees a \$200 cost-of-living bonus. Social Security and Civil Service came in 1957.

Religious groups have expanded facilities, and new denominations have instituted services. The Dunbar and Spring Glen churches brought to four the number of Congregational parishes. Recently established are two Lutheran groups, one of which has a new church building in Mount Carmel; two Baptist, an Orthodox Presbyterian, a Universalist, a Unitarian, and in Dunbar an Episcopal group called St. John's on the Hill.

St. John's Episcopal Church from New Haven has purchased land on which to locate in Hamden. The

Jewish Center has become Beth Sholom synagogue, and a large New Haven synagogue has acquired property on which it will build.

Among the five Catholic churches, two have new buildings—St. Stephen's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The Blessed Sacrament Church which came in 1939, first held services in the Church Street School, and the Rev. Charles Kavanagh said Mass in the church building on Christmas Day. An active group has been formed called the Dunbar Catholic Women. The Rev. Matthew Brady left his pastorate at St. Rita's to become Bishop of Burlington and later of the diocese of Vermont; and the Rev. William Daly, who came to St. Rita's from Mount Carmel, was elevated to the title of monsignor.

In 1951 the Missionary Zelatrices of the Sacred Heart built a convent on Cherry Hill called Mount Sacred Heart, which includes an academy for girls; and convents have been added to St. Rita's, the Blessed Sacrament and Mount Carmel.

Whether or not the area of the Quinnipiac River meadows becomes a land fill disposal place, the valley of the river is potentially of extreme importance to the towns of Hamden, New Haven, North Haven and Wallingford, and three men represent the town in the Quinnipiac Valley Development Corporation.

The location of the so-called Route 91 state highway has been a warm subject in the same towns, through which it is expected to run, and a number of routes have been suggested, with bitter opposition from one or another area in regard to some phases of each.

Dixwell Avenue was paved by the state from New Haven line to Connolly Parkway, and from Centerville corner to the North Haven line, with an agreement that Hamden will maintain those sections.

While the town hall has had many changes and small additions, panelled walls in the selectman's office and the court room, and innumerable shifts of department offices from one spot to another, the vault for the probate court was not the last notable change. So much was increasingly said about overcrowded rooms and critical shortages of space, that a crisis seemed at hand, until First Selectman John DeNicola had the portion of the auditorium under the balcony and on the stage remodeled, so that three departments were established in offices there, thus making room in other places for needed expansion.

A part of the evidence that the town of Hamden is growing and its many needs of every description are expanding is the development in the last decade of over a dozen civic associations, each pressing for attention to demands or complaints affecting the local area involved.

Among new privately run institutions have been several pre-school nurseries and a number of convalescent homes, and there is a privately sponsored ambulance. An earnest group has since 1954 raised funds each year, under the guidance of the International Experiment in Living program, to send a Hamden young person to live for two months in another country in a typical family, taking a picture of our culture and bringing back the story of how life is lived elsewhere. Our ambassadors have gone to Germany, Austria, Italy, Yugoslavia, Poland and Mexico. The latter country, under the same guidance, sent eight high-school age girls here for a two-week visit in homes of local girls, as far back as 1947.

Garden clubs have made helpful projects of landscaping around public buildings and in Eli Whitney Park. Many clubwomen have made regular supplies of cancer dressings to help with this health need.

So, in 23 years, Hamden's advance toward municipal maturity is marked—the grand list has increased by over 111-million dollars, the population has doubled, there has been a tremendous growth in residential, industrial and business building—there are 10,502 homes, 614 business and 81 manufacturing buildings and 16,568 automobiles listed in the town. The prophetic finger points toward acceptance of the auditors' repeated advice to change the fiscal year date to conform with related groups.

The town meeting form has given place to the RTM, which is likely to prove an intermediate step between the old and a modern form of government. The dispensing of justice on the local level is also advancing to a broader concept.

New public buildings, including libraries, many new schools, expansion of some and addition of new religious groups; a full time health director; Civil Service, Social Security and pensions for town employees, have come about. The volunteer firemen have given way to modern fire fighting; and trolleys have yielded place to buses. Television has become a new kind of entertainment.

Problems? of course—zoning, traffic, sewer, refuse disposal—a natural part of growing. We are finding neighbor towns cooperative in regional matters; we are, while still nominally a villageous town, finding less inter-community hostility and a more unified sense of being proudly Hamden.

In a backward glance at Hamden in its corporate personality—which has become what it is through the strongest of its citizen leaders—three men in this period could be selected as typical—Raymond Rochford, who served in the local courts and as town counsel and first selectman for most of his adult life; James Doherty—

on the school board, as a selectman, as prosecutor and town court judge, now elevated to a Common Pleas Court judgeship, and who, like Mr. Rochford, spent his life in active, strong leadership in a town that he served and loved; and John Thim—able moderator of town meetings, representative and Speaker of the House in the legislature, town court judge and lately on the Superior Court bench.

All these men have these characteristics in common—integrity, unselfish public service, courage, leadership, and a paramount interest in “the general welfare”.

Hamden’s personality remains throughout her existence as still inventive, shrewd, cautious and thrifty. And the old Giant—our fundamental unchangeable, bears his age-old benign imperturbable aspect toward the pulsing, growing changes of our life.

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Augur	Munson
Bassett	Potter
Bradley	Sackett
Brockett	Tuttle
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1953-	{	Leon Booth, John DeNicola, Herbert Hume
1954		
1955-	{	Herbert Hume, Harold Jayne, John DeNicola
1956		
1957-	{	John DeNicola, Thayer Jones, Herbert Hume
1958		

PROBATE COURT

1947-1956	Judge F. Raymond Rochford
	Clerk Gertrude Collins
1957-	Judge John McNerney
	Clerk Gertrude Collins

LIST OF HAMDEN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Simeon Bristol	1786	Abial Leonard	1844
John Hubbard	1787	Ezra Alling, 2d	1845
Simeon Bristol	1788-1791	Horace Potter	1846
John Hubbard	1792	Henry Munson	1847
Simeon Bristol	1793-1794	Leverett Tuttle	1848
Samuel Bellamy	1795	Lewis Warner	1849
Simeon Bristol	1796	Abial Leonard	1850
Samuel Bellamy	1797	Horace Potter	1851
Josiah Root	1798	Eli B. Smith	1852
John Hubbard	1799	Russell Cooper	1853
Simeon Bristol	1800	Henry Munson	1854
James Bassett	1801	Loyal F. Todd	1855
Amasa Bradley	1802	Horace Potter	1856
James Bassett	1803	Merrit Ford	1857
Medad Atwater	1804	Henry Tuttle	1858
Amasa Bradley	1805-1808	James M. Ford	1859-1860
Jesse Tuttle	1809	Merrit Ford	1861
Russell Pierpont	1810	Eli B. Smith	1862
Amos Bradley	1811	Elias Warner	1863-1864
Amasa Bradley	1812	Andrew J. Doolittle	1865
Elam Bradley	1813	Henry Tuttle	1866
Amasa Bradley	1814	August Dickerman	1867-1869
Joel Ford	1815	Gilbert Benham	1870
Amasa Bradley	1816-1817	Silas Benham	1871
Russell Pierpont	1818	Philos Dickerman	1872
Roger Dorman	1819	Jesse Cooper	1873
Joel Ford	1820-1821	Edwin Potter	1874
Hezekiah Warner	1822	Riley Palmeter	1875-1876
Jared Bassett	1823-1824	Andrew J. Doolittle	1877
Ambrose Tuttle	1825-1826	Norris B. Mix	1878-1879
Jared Bassett	1827-1828	Cecil Burleigh	1880
Alfred Bassett	1829-1830	Leverett Dickerman	1881
Jared Bassett	1831-1832	Bela Mann	1882-1883
Elam Warner	1833-1834	Frederick Tuttle	1884
Alfred Bassett	1835	Henry W. Munson	1885
Jared Bassett	1836	Hubert Warner	1886
James M. Ford	1837-1838	Benjamin Woodin	1887
Leverett Hitchcock	1839	George L. Clark	1889
Leverett Tuttle	1840	Dwight Mix	1891
Horace Potter	1841	George Ives	1894
Allen Dickerman	1842	William F. Downer	1896
Loyal F. Todd	1843	John Shares	1898

Bibliography and Appendix

481

John Davis	1900	Edward Ely	}	
Edwin Potter	1902	Charles W. Brock	}	1934
Horace Johnson	1904	Edward Ely	}	
Willis Benham	1906	William Hindinger	}	1936
Benjamin Broadbent	1908	Fred Kirk	}	
Edwin McLane	1910	C. Raymond Brock	}	1938
Burton Potter }		Fred Kirk	}	
Friend Peck }	1912	C. Raymond Brock	}	1940
John Sanford }		Fred Kirk	}	
Burton Potter }	1914	John R. Thim	}	1942
William F. Smith }		Fred Kirk	}	
John Sanford }	1916	John R. Thim	}	1944
Edgar Munson }		John R. Thim	}	
Walter Hayles }	1918	Edward Kummer	}	1946
Edgar Munson }		John R. Thim	}	
Bennett Dickerman }	1920	Edward Kummer	}	1948
Frank A. Warner }		Edward Kummer	}	
Henry F. Hall }	1922	Harry Neal	}	1950
Frank A. Warner }		Harry Neal	}	
Henry F. Hall }	1924	John Tilson	}	1952
Frank A. Warner }		Harry Neal	}	
Henry F. Hall }	1926	William Kielwasser	}	1954
Frank A. Warner }		William Kielwasser	}	
Almon J. Deane }	1928	Alice Hyde	}	1956
Benjamin Broadbent }		William Kielwasser	}	
Almon J. Deane }	1930	Ray Coleman	}	1958
Benjamin Broadbent }			}	
Charles W. Brock }	1932		}	

SENATORS

Jared Bassett	1833	James J. Webb	1863
Eleazer Warner	1840	Henry Tuttle	1871
Griswold Gilbert	1843	John Sanford	1921
Marcus Merriman, Jr.	1846-1847	Henry F. Hall	1927
Griswold Gilbert	1852	C. Raymond Brock	1944
John Filer		1956	

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

John Sanford	1922-1927	Henry F. Hall	1931-1935
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UNITED STATES MARSHAL

Bernard J. Fitch	1936-1951
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TOWN COURT OF HAMDEN

May 20, 1897

Sworn in:

Judge	Frederick Tuttle
Prosecuting Attorney	George L. Andrews
Deputy Judge	B. Hartley Mann
Clerk	Frederick E. Tuttle

May 20, 1899

Judge }	
Clerk }	Frederick E. Tuttle
Deputy Judge	B. Hartley Mann
Prosecuting Attorney	Michael Farrell
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	George C. Rogers

May 6, 1901

Judge }	
Clerk }	Frederick E. Tuttle
Deputy Judge	B. Hartley Mann
Prosecuting Attorney	William C. Raymond
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	George W. Malone

In August 29, 1902, George L. Andrews appointed Prosecuting Attorney from September 1, 1902, to replace William C. Raymond, resigned.

May 8, 1903

Judge }	
Clerk }	Frederick E. Tuttle
Deputy Judge	B. Hartley Mann
Prosecuting Attorney	George L. Andrews
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	William F. Downes

May 1, 1905

Judge	Frederick E. Tuttle
Deputy Judge	B. Hartley Mann
Prosecuting Attorney	William F. Downes
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	Frank A. Warner
Clerk	George L. Andrews

The History of Hamden

483

May 6, 1907

Judge	Willis M. Cook
Deputy Judge	Edgar W. Munson
Prosecuting Attorney	Charles F. Clarke
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	William Swain
Clerk	George L. Andrews

May 6, 1909

Judge	Willis M. Cook
Deputy Judge	Edgar W. Munson
Prosecuting Attorney	Charles F. Clarke
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	William Swain
Clerk	George L. Andrews

On February 1, 1910, Almon J. Deane appointed clerk to fill vacancy caused by death of George L. Andrews.

On March 10, 1911, Edward H. Young appointed clerk to take effect from this date.

April 29, 1911

Judge	Willis M. Cook
Deputy Judge	Edgar W. Munson
Prosecuting Attorney	Charles F. Clarke

June 5, 1913

Judge	Willis M. Cook
Deputy Judge	Frederick S. Brockett
Prosecuting Attorney	F. Raymond Rochford
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	Paul Webb
Clerk	Edward H. Young

May 24, 1915

Judge	Willis M. Cook
Deputy Judge	John O. Shares
Prosecuting Attorney	F. Raymond Rochford
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	William F. Smith
Clerk	Edward H. Young

June 4, 1917

Judge	John O. Shares
Deputy Judge	Frederick W. Dietter
Prosecuting Attorney	F. Raymond Rochford
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	James H. Strain
Clerk	Robert Reinwald

June 3, 1919

Judge	John O. Shares
Deputy Judge	Frederick W. Dietter
Prosecuting Attorney	F. Raymond Rochford
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	James H. Strain
Clerk	Robert Reinwald

On August 16, 1920, George P. Fitch appointed Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in place of James H. Strain, who resigned.

June 10, 1921

Judge	Charles E. Currie
Deputy Judge	Leon A. Drake
Prosecuting Attorney	Charles F. Clarke
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	Francis A. Lincoln
Clerk	Gilbert C. Peck

June 4, 1923

Judge	Charles E. Currie
Deputy Judge	Leon A. Drake
Prosecuting Attorney	Joseph Shelnitz
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	Bertrand B. Salzman
Clerk	Gilbert C. Peck

On February 24, 1924, Pierpont B. Foster appointed Deputy Judge.

June 1, 1925

Judge	Charles E. Currie
Deputy Judge	Pierpont B. Foster
Prosecuting Attorney	Joseph Shelnitz
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	Bertrand B. Salzman
Clerk	Gilbert C. Peck

Bibliography and Appendix

485

June, 1927

Judge	Pierpont B. Foster
Deputy Judge	Charles E. Clark
Prosecuting Attorney	Bertrand B. Salzman
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	Kenneth D. Rogers
Clerk	Robert Reinwald

May 27, 1929

(Same as 1927)

June 3, 1931

Judge	Pierpont B. Foster
Deputy Judge	F. Raymond Rochford
Prosecuting Attorney	Bertrand B. Salzman
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	Kenneth D. Rogers
Clerk	Robert Reinwald

June 3, 1933

Judge	Abraham H. Markle
Deputy Judge	Roscoe T. Steffen
Prosecuting Attorney	James P. Doherty
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	Kenneth D. Rogers
Clerk	John Whitham

July 1, 1935

Judge	Bertrand B. Salzman
Deputy Judge	Roscoe T. Steffen
Prosecuting Attorney	James P. Doherty
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	Kenneth D. Rogers
Clerk	John E. McNerney

July 1, 1937

Judges	Bertram Salzman
	Roscoe Steffen
Prosecutors	James P. Doherty
	Kenneth Rogers
Clerk	John McNerney

July 1, 1939

Judges	John R. Thim John McNerney
Prosecutors	Arthur Feldman Kenneth Rogers
Clerk	Albert Miller

July 1, 1941

Judges	John R. Thim Jeremiah Shea
Prosecutors	Walter Faulkner Kenneth Rogers
Clerk	John McNerney

July 1, 1943

Judges	John R. Thim Thompson Dean
Prosecutors	John McNerney Kenneth Rogers
Clerk	Morris Gamm

July 1, 1945

Judges	John R. Thim Walter Faulkner
Prosecutors	John McNerney Kenneth Rogers
Clerk	Morris Gamm

July 1, 1947

Judges	John R. Thim Bernard Pellegrino
Prosecutors	John McNerney Kenneth Rogers
Clerk	Morris Gamm

July 1, 1949

Judges	James P. Doherty Jeremiah Shea
Prosecutors	John Peck Anthony Grillo
Clerk	James Golden

July 1, 1951

Judges	John McNerney Bernard Pellegrino
Prosecutors	Morris Gamm Catherine Tilson
Clerks	Kenneth Rogers James O. Shea

July 1, 1953

Judges	John McNerney Bernard Pellegrino
Prosecutors	Morris Gamm James O. Shea
Clerks	Kenneth Rogers Thomas Grimes

July 1, 1955

Judges	James P. Doherty John Peck
Prosecutors	Dennis Garvey Frederick Greenberg
Clerks	James Golden Albert Miller

July 1, 1957

Judges	James P. Doherty John Peck
Prosecutors	Dennis Garvey Frederick Greenberg
Clerks	James Golden Joseph Greco Albert Miller

July 1, 1959

Judges	John Peck Frederick Greenberg
Prosecutors	Dennis Garvey Joseph Greco
Clerks	James Golden Albert Miller Robert Fracasso

HAMDEN MANUFACTURERS

Abrasive Finishing Co.
Acme Wire Co.
Alling Wood Products, Inc.
American Metaseal of Connecticut, Inc.
American Rondo Corp.
Automech Associates
Bellmore-Johnson Tool Co.
Botwinik Bros.
Bradley Semiconductor Corp.
Brock-Hall Dairy Co.
Brockway, Smith, Haigh, Lovel Co.
Camden Machine Co.
Central Beautycraft, Inc.
Central Molders Corp.
Central Sign Corp.
Cheshire Products, Inc.
Ciemer & Raynor Co.
W. I. Clark Co.
Coe & Brown Co.
Columbia Printing Co.
Conn. Frozen Meats & Poultry Co.
Conn. High Test Sand Gravel Co.
Cummings Steel Co., Inc.
D & R Corp.
D.S.D. Manufacturing Co.
Dardick Corp.
Daw Packing Co., Inc.
Detroit Steel Corp.
Dickerman Paper Products Co.
Duro Engineering Co.
Eastern Industries, Inc.
Fluid Systems, Inc.
Ezra D. Fogg Co.
Gambie Products
General Machinery Co.
Gessner Machine Co.
Giering Metal Finishing Co.
Gilbert's Bakery
Globe Metal Finishing Co.
Hamden Chronicle
Hamden Deep Hole Drilling
Hamden Press, Inc.
Hamden Smelting Co.
Hamden Upholstery Shop
Hamden Wood Products, Inc.
Heany Industrial Ceramics Co.

J. T. Henry Manufacturing Co.
High Precision, Inc.
High Standard Manufacturing Co.
Himmel Bros. Co.
Insulated Circuit, Inc.
Interchemical Corp.
Koiled Kords, Inc.
Kramer Iron Works
H. A. Leed Co., Inc.
Lenahan Publishing Corp.
Leonard Concrete Pipe Co.
Luscon Industries Corp.
Marioni's Ice Cream
Marshall Laboratories, Inc.
W. L. Maxson Corp.
Thomas McAviney Co.
Microtech, Inc.
Moran Brush Manufacturing Co.
Moneco Co.
H. J. Murray Co.
National Filter Media Corp.
Neutra Screen Corp.
New England Iron Works, Inc.
New England Rack Co.
New Haven Packing Co.
Nylco Manufacturing Co.
Parva Products, Inc.
Peerless Products, Inc.
Pepsi-Cola Co. of New Haven
Plasticrete Corp.
Porce-Len, Inc.
Ranger Products, Inc.
Rusco Window Co.
Safety Electric Equipment Corp.
Safety Industries, Inc.
Shoe String Press, Inc.
Snow Nabstedt Gear Corp.
Southern New England Typographic Service
State Rail Co.
United Manufacturing Co.
Victor's Pattern Shop
Wallace-Davis Co.
Wallace Metal Products Co.
Whitney-Blake Co.
Whitney Cotton Mills, Inc.
Wilson Arms Co.
Wyco Gauge & Die Co.

Index

INDEX

- Abraham's Cave, 319-320
- Agriculture, as means of livelihood, 28; Hamden, 344, 449
- Alling, Rev. Abraham, 114, 115, 116, 172, 222, 368; dismissal of, 215; selectman, 102
- , Caleb, Capt. 73, 106, 161, 171; married three times, 116; death of, 152
- , Caleb, 3rd, 115; imprisoned for church taxes, 112
- , Edward B., 399; quoted, 172
- , Jerry, account of, 125; Franklin elm purchased from, 124
- Ambassador from Hamden, 465
- Americanization classes, 416
- Americcan Legion Post 88, 300, 420, 445, 452
- Ancient Order of Hibernians, 320-321
- Andrews, Andrew T., 271, 295
- , family, early Mt. Carmel settlers, 52, 53
- , George, 364, 373; diary of, 365, 370; town clerk, 393
- , John, 364, 371
- , Sybil, wife of Timothy, 170
- , Timothy, 113, 170
- Andrus, May, director sesquicentennial festival, 442
- Arnold, Benedict, 76; powder house keys demanded by, 77
- Assessors, 449
- Atwater, David, early Hamden settler, 20, 30, 33, 153
- , George, 187, 384; will of, 311
- , Samuel, 61, 75, 77, 81, 106, 110, 240; captain, 151, 220; viewer of highway, 128
- Auger shop, 177, 261, 365; Churchill, 388
- Augerville, 48
- Augur, Charles P., 227, 342; selectman, 338
- Austin, Henry, 401; architect of many New Haven buildings, 234, 235
- Axle, patented by Willis Miller, 293
- , spring, invented by Jonathan Mix, 161
- Axle Works, 210, 293, 392
- Baldwin, Gov. Simeon E., 144, 197, 309, 447; as professor, 347; quoted, 100, 101, 182, 349, 350
- , Drive, built by, WPA, 451
- Bank, United States, 242
- Barber, John W., Connecticut Historical Collections, quoted, 45; native silk cultivation, 245
- Barnes, Capt. Samuel, 59
- Bassett, Alfred, 260; on proposed poorhouse committee, 242
- , family, early Mt. Carmel settlers, 52, 53, 131, 132, 260
- , Hezekiah, highway surveyor, 99; house of, 180; lieutenant of 12th Company, 75
- , John, 21, 309; in Great Swamp Fight, 34; pound built by, 35, 82
- , J. Walter, 423
- , Lydia A., memorial given by, 417, 418
- Bassett Park, as memorial, 418
- Beaver Ponds, 16, 25; cow and ox pastures near, 15; dam built at, 37, 38; mill at, 40; named from Dutch Indian trading, 10
- Beers, Ira, 295
- , Philos, mill and manufactory of, 295, 297
- Bellamy, Col. Samuel, 80, 81, 99, 128, 132, 157, 159, 217

- Bellamy, Band, of Mt. Carmel, 75
 —, Tavern, 56, 57, 59, 61, 109, 118, 121, 157, 187; church warnings posted at, 119; school classes held at, 62; site of, 364
 Bell foundry, 122
 Benham, Amos, 170
 —, Mrs. Amos deeded land to church, 171
 —, family, 222; shoemakers, 211
 —, "Gib," Hamden postmaster, 343, 355
 —, Jared, 212, 364, 373
 —, John, 212; a brickmaker, 36
 —, Willis, 329, 330, 366, 384
 Better Boys Brigade, 461
 Blacksmith shops, 134, 236
 Blake, Eli Whitney, 261; stone crusher of, 186, 263, 277, 301
 —, Elihu, brother of Eli W., 263
 —, Henry Taylor, son of Eli W. Blake, 124, 263
 —, Philos, 261
 —, Theodore Whitney, 397; wire factory of, 407, 453
 —, William P., 354; History of Hamden, 291, 322, 346, 347, 389; quoted, 331
 Blakeslee Co., quarry business of, 438
 Blizzard of 1888, 357
 Blue Hills, 19, 35, 358-359; another name for Mt. Carmel, 9; distant from Green, 55, 56; land on, granted to Samuel Whitehead, 36; mining in, 44, 46; road leading to, 28; 6th Division made in, 54; Step a natural formation of, 47
 Blue Hills Common Field, 159
 Blue Laws, 68
 Board of Tax Review, 449
 Boats, canal, 3, 192, 203, 204; *American Eagle*, 195; *De Witt Clinton*, 195; *Enterprise*, 195; *Fayette*, 193; *Gold Hunter*, 203; *James Hillhouse*, 194, 195, 196; *James Ives*, 339, 340; on Lake Whitney, 359, 360; *New England*, 194, 195; *Paragon*, 203; *Sachem*, 203; steam, 184; *Weatogue*, 195. See also Canal
 Booth, Leon, 462
 Bradley, Abraham, deacon, mill and bloomery built by, 40, 41
 —, Amasa, 118, 148; Charter Mason, 119; church reader, 120; father of Horace, 154; Hamden supposedly named by, 91; moderator, 175; school visitor, 316
 —, Amos, 56, 270; lieutenant of 15th Company, 74
 —, Daniel, 48, 50, 56, 59, 158; captain 8th Train Band, 74, 266; estate of, 266
 —, family, early Mt. Carmel settlers, 52, 53, 132
 —, Harvey, 177; on poorhouse committee, 242; store of, 236
 —, homestead, 150, 155
 Bradley, Joel, 249; father of Seymour, 165; sawmill of, 51
 —, Dr. Samuel, 249
 —, Seymour, distillery lease of, 165
 —, Sterling, tavern of, 134; toll-gate keeper, 265, 314
 —, William, 71; mill property acquired by, 38, 39; officer in Cromwell's army, 21, 91
 Brady, Rev. Matthew, 423, 441; made Bishop of Burlington, Vt., 464
 Brass Works, founded by James Ives, 290
 "Brethren, The," Hamden boulders, 5, 6
 Brewster, Francis, farm of, 20; lost in Phantom Ship, 21

- Brewster, Frederick, 417
 —, James, 280, 417; railroad president and carriage manufacturer, 235
 —, Rev. Joseph, 300, 301, 400
 —, Mrs. William, 376, 400; gifts of, 420, 421
- Brickmaking, 37, 212, 296, 391; tract reserved for, 22, 36; wood used for, 345
- Bridges, 269; aqueduct above Farmington River, 189; over brook, 128; covered, 181, 297, 337, 363; expense of, 58, 88, 103; at Lake Whitney, 279; Oberlin, 452; Pardee's, 337; truss construction, 182, 183
- Bristol, George Augustus, 118, 247; constable, 99; tax collector, 102
 —, Simeon, 99, 106, 246, 324; 1st Hamden moderator, 98; recording clerk and justice of the peace, 106, 118; slaves of, 127; viewer of highway, 128
- British invasion, of New Haven, 76, 81, 82, 123, 198, 204
- Broadbent, Benjamin, 393
 —, Ericsson, 425
- Brockett, Charles, 162, 283, 284, 292
 —, family, early Mt. Carmel settlers, 52, 53
 —, Fred, teacher, 312, 320
 —, Hezekiah, 150, 162; home of, 98
- Brooks, Enos, 268; terms in will of, 338; widow of, 269
- Brown, D. R., architect of town hall, 354
- Building Brook, 177
- Canal, 184, 187, 188; charter for, 186; difficulties of, 202, 205, 330; enemies of, 190, 191, 205, 206; Erie, 184, 186, 191; excursion on, 194, 195; losses of, 199, 200; locks of, 187, 208; through New Haven, 187; at Windsor Locks, 197; work begun on, 189. *See* Boats, canal; Farmington canal; stock of, 190; plans made for, 185; towpath of, used for railroad, 233
- Canal Company, 187, 190, 192; business methods of, 188
- Candee, Leverett, 260, 296; rubber factory of, 258, 388
- Cashman, James, services in home of, 366
- Catholic families, 366; Italian, 401, 429; Irish, 273
- Cemetery, 157; Centerville, 151, 220, 221, 269; Hamden Plains, 221; Jewish, 228, 229; Mt. Carmel Catholic, 228; State Street, 223, 224; West Woods, 157, 224-227
- Centennial, Hamden, 346-350
- Centerville Band, 304, 347
 —, Hotel (new), 271
 —, House, 240, 244, 354; as Ives Hotel, 319
 —, Trotting Park, 318
- Chadwick, Sarah, 287, 288
- Chapman, Dr. Elisha, 163; slave owner, 164
- Chatfield, George W., Temperance Hall of, 284
 —, Minotte, 178, 284, 300
- Chatterton mill, 53
 —, Waite, 74, 390; mill built by, 53; pound petitioned for, 59; school committeeman, 61
- Cheshire Turnpike Co., 132-134
- Child Study & Treatment Home, 459
- Church, attendance at, 32, 55, 56, 63, 66, 67, 110, 180; Congregational, 109, 110, 119, 150, 171, 179, 187; influence of, on town

- gov't., 65; provisions made for, 54; and school, 71; vs. state, 112; Society, 170; taxes levied for, 54, 55; disaffection in ranks of, 115
- Churches, 463, 464
- , Episcopal, 55, 78, 117, 120, 400; Uriah Foote's property sold to, 240; second building of, 174
- , Hamden Plains Methodist, 169, 399, 400; burned, 415
- , Mt. Carmel, 64, 65, 79, 214, 244, 272, 307
- , Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 272, 402, 464
- , Spring Glen, 427, 463
- , St. Ann's 401
- , St. John the Baptist, 16, 366, 450
- , St. Mary's, 366
- , St. Rita, organized, 423, 464
- , St. Stephen's, 402, 464
- , West Woods Baptist, 174
- , Whitneyville, 111, 150, 215, 307, 368, 370; centennial of, 435
- Churchill, Willis, factory of, 261; manufacturer of surgical instruments, 177, 210, 244
- Civic Associations, 465
- Civil Service, 449, 463
- Civil War, 161, 284, 300
- Clark, Herman D., 322
- , R.S., sleighbells made by, 298, 322; silk made by, 322
- Clark's Pond, 298, 322
- Clarke, Charles F., secretary of School Board, 379, 385; pastor of Whitneyville Church, 368
- Clay pits, 5, 323; at foot of West Rock, 27; along the Quinnipiac, 26, 36
- Coley, Rev. James, 377
- Collins, Raymond, chairman of School Board, 416, 436
- Colt, Samuel, invention and manufacture of revolvers, 261-263
- "Come outers," 272
- Commons, need of, 32; Blue Hills and West Rock, 46 *See also* New Haven Green
- Community Center, Mt. Carmel Childrens' Home absorbed by, 357
- Community Field Day, 420, 426, 428
- Congregationalists, strict, 112, 171
- Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 265
- , Charter, defined, 68
- , Colony, government of, 67, 68
- , River, influence of Hobbamock on, 7; known as Long River, 6
- , Silk Society, 245
- , Western Reserve land, 120
- Connolly Parkway, 455
- Connor, Walter, 452
- Cook, Judge Willis, 358, 392
- , Mrs. Willis, 433
- Cooper, Ellsworth, 325; school visitor, 316; town clerk, 364
- , Ezra, blacksmith, 236, 325
- , family, 132
- , Jared, 239, 240
- , Jesse, 309; Whitneyville postmaster, 343
- , Joseph, house of, 178; land exchanged by, 48; ensign in charge of Train Band, 73
- , Justus, 192; proprietor of Old Red Tavern, 122, 126
- Cooperage business, of Hezekiah Brockett, 162
- Coopers Quarters, 28
- Cooper, imported from West Indies, 210; ore, 196; in Blue Hills, 160
- Cotton gin, invention and patent of, 135, 138-140, 209

- Crafts, Capt. Samuel, brickmaker, quoted, 287, 323, 361
- Cushing, John P., Hamden Hall organized by, 417, 432
- Dana, Arnold G., devotion of, to Sleeping Giant, 433, 434
- Davenport, Rev. John, 32, 33, 71; delivered first New Haven sermon, 14; land tract of, 17, 26, 36; in purchase of tract including Giant, 9; as one of Seven Pillars, 15
- Davis, Edward, horsecar line of, 331
 —, William E., 21; home of 24, 332, 347, 437
 —, Brick Co., 332
- Day, James, store of, 236, 237
 —, boathouse, 237, 297, 359, 360
- Day Spring Masonic Lodge, 117, 321, 354; Bellamy a master, 157; Temple built by, 437
- Dead Man's Cave, 319, 320
- Deane, Almon J., death of, 437; Mt. Carmel station agent, 357, 393, 425; town clerk, 413
- DeNicola, John, 463, 465
- Dickerman, Abraham, land tract of, 46, 48, 71, 178; of New Haven Colony, 51, 52
 —, Caroline, 251
 —, Charles, 309, 365; Centerville House owner, 303, 354
 —, Edward, 236
 —, Elan, 328; station agent, 330; slaughterhouse, 328
 —, Eli, 243, 270, 342
 —, Elias, 315, 316
 —, Elihu, on poorhouse committee, 242, 348
 —, Elizabeth, founder of Female Seminary, 256; quoted, 257
 —, Emma, daughter of Leverett, 317
- Dickerman, Ezra, 175, 251, 256, 288, 289, 290
 —, family, 131, 132, 160, 222
 —, Rev. George S., 23, 365; quoted, 308
 —, Hezekiah, 77; ensign in 12th Company, 75; house of, 133, 134
 —, Isaac, 99, 106, 159, 178; moderator, 57; ensign, 44; 6th Division land acquired by, 51
 —, John, 344, 358, 364
 —, Jonathan, 59, 110, 160, 344, 358; fence viewer, 99; Old Red House of, 179; settler in Mt. Carmel, 52
 —, Laura, Librarian, 424
 —, Leverett, 311, 315
 —, Orrin, 303, 328, 433; spring on property of, 52
 —, Robert, 372, 388
 —, Samuel, selectman, 99, 102; Mt. Carmel settler, 52
 —, Seymour, 305; oyster business of, 163
 —, Sue, teacher for 50 years, 404
- Dick's Pond, 454
- Divisions, Fifth, 53; First, 16; Fourth, 46, 48, 53; Second, 16; Sequestered Lands bought, 52; Sixth, 51, 53, 54; Third, 16, 19
- Dog Lane Court, 155, 156, 162
- Doherty, James P., 462, 466
- Dorman family, 23, 24, 112, 222; lane through land of, 28; home of, 27, 54, 462
 —, Jerome, 332
- Doolittle, A. C., 302
 —, Andrew, 295, 309
 —, Caleb, highway surveyor, 99; famed wrestler, 156
 —, family, early Mt. Carmel settlers, 52, 53
 —, Heman, 390

- Doolittle, James, mill of, 390
 —, Reuben, famed wrestler, 156
 Downes, Father, 402, 411, 416
 Ducey, Charles, 454
 Dullard, Father, 386
 Dunbar, Giles, freeman, 177
 —, Chapel, 375
 —, Community Club, 422
 —, Hill, Indian grinding stone at, 12
 Dwight, Dr. Timothy, 78, 144, 177, 209; Statistical Account of New Haven, 45

 Early, Bernard, World War II hero, 412
 East Rock, 4, 16, 35; called "Roodenbergh" or "Red Hills," 10; colonists fled to, 81; copper found at, 45; monument on, 353; as part of David Atwater's farm, 20; road to, 28, 39; traprock at, 97; Whitney holdings on, 150
 —, Park, layout of, 335, 336
 Eaton, Theophilus, buried on New Haven Green, 19; mansion of, 148; land tracts of, 9, 10, 11, 17-19, 36; as one of Seven Pillars, 15
 Eaton Brook, 163, 165
 East Plains Society, 110, 113, 114, 312
 Eighteenth Amendment, 414
 Eli Whitney Park, 236, 396, 465
 Eli Whitney School, 459
 Epidemics, caused by Lake Whitney water levels, 317; infantile paralysis, 410; influenza, 416; measles, 389; small pox, 151
 Everest, Rev. Charles, 400; founder of Rectory School, 252, 296, 321; waterworks charter obtained by, 326

 Fair Haven, called "the Neck," 15, 16; formation of, 32; founding of, 71
 Fairs, Centerville, 302; County, on New Haven Green, 265, 266; Hamden, agricultural, 301
 Farmington stage line, 235, 236
 —, Canal, 181, 184; stock of, 190
 Federal government, inaugurated in New York, 117; Constitution, 104, 110
 Fire Companies, 396-399, 414, 415; Centerville, 397, 419; Humphrey, 397, 398, 415; Seagrave engine of, 414
 Firehouse, Mix District, built, 422
 Flight, Samuel, 375, 396; ice business of, 298
 Foote, Chauncey, postmaster, 343
 —, R.W., high school designed by, 436
 Ford family, house of, on Waite Street, 178, 179
 —, Moses, 113, 178, 222
 —, Stephen, 150; fence viewer, 99; lieutenant, 75, 76; on school committee, 114
 Foster, Judge Carl, quoted, 434
 Franklin elm, 124, 125
 Freeman, 105, 176, 177, "admitted inhabitants," 104, 105; first meeting of, 14; of Hamden, 98
 Fulton, Robert, 148; steamboat invention of, 161
 Fundamental Orders, 67

 Galpin & Robinson, manufacturers of carpets, 258
 Gaylord, Alling, 224, 225
 —, Benjamin, Jr., 99
 "Giant's Kettles," 6
 Gilbert family, 131, 132, 222
 —, Griswold, 270, 388; milk producer, 267

- Gilbert, Sgt. John, 44, 81; captain 17th Company, 82
 —, Matthew, 108, 221, 388; deacon, magistrate, deputy governor, 26; farm of, 20, 36; sold, 21; Seven Pillars, 15, 26
 Gilbert farms, 47; formerly Shepherd's Pen, 25
 Golf courses, Giant Valley and Meadowbrook, 424, 452, 455
 Goffe, Regicide, sheltered, 19, 38
 Goodyear, Charles, 258
 —, family, keepers of school records, 251
 —, Jesse, Jr., bell manufacturer, 122
 —, Jesse, 3d., 102, 187, 250; Centerville House of, 122, 240, 271, 303, 354
 —, Theophilus, 56, 77, 99, 104, 239; church warnings at home of, 119; selectman, 102
 Gorham, family, 112, 222
 —, Julius, 301
 —, Nathan, 368
 Governor's Foot Guard, 198
 Granniss, Joseph, 291, 292; maker of carriage parts, 297
 —, & Russell, kegs made by, 327
 Grave, Frederick D., 360, 395, 397
 Gravestones, old, 151, 157; in Mt. Carmel, 217-219
 Great Awakening, 55
- Hall, William D., 303; fertilizer business of, 263, 264
 Hamburg, *See* Highwood
 Hamden, 91-93, 102, 153; brick-making in, 37; five villages in, 330, 331; main route to, 27; poor of, 106-108; road and bridges to, 103; separate gov't of, 90, 97, 99, 109, 110
 —, Airport, 427, 462
 Hamden, Bank & Trust Co., 424-426; closing of, 430, 450
 —, Chamber of Commerce, 425
 —, Chronicle, 454
 —, Grange, 370, 371
 —, Hall Associates, 432
 —, High School, plans for, 403, 436. *See* Schools
 —, Historical Society, 179, 442
 —, *Times*, weekly, 437
 Hampden, John, Puritan patriot, 399; town named for, 91-93
 Harris, Malcolm, mill converted into home by, 53
 —, Marshall, 454
 —, Richard, 454
 Harrison, Gov.. Henry B., 347, 348; quoted, 100
 Hart, Father Matthew, 273
 Harte, Charles Rufus, 189
 Hartford Turnpike Co., 132, 181
 Haywards, or pounders, 31
 Health, 453
 —, officers, 362, 374, 453, 457
 Heaton, John E., 358, 423
 Henry, John T., 360; manufacturer of pruning shears, 295
 Highways, division of town into, 102; laying out of, 15; macadamizing of, 371, 372, 387; used by Ezra Kimberly, 164; Whitney Ave. paved, 452. *See also* Roads
 Highwood, previously called Hamburg, 343; school, 315, 395
 —, Fire Co., 396, 459
 —, Italian-American Club, 416
 Hillhouse, James, 144, 150; asked Federal grant for canal, 198
 Hiscock, Dr. Ira, 426
 Hitchcock, Leverett, 270, 321; postmaster, 343; town clerk, 324; town treasurer, 312
 Horsecar line, 309; Davis', 331, 332

- Houses, first New Haven project, 149; old Hamden, 65, 177-181; along the Quinnipiac, 21
- Hume, Herbert, 463
- Humiston, Alva, 428, 429
- , family, 131, 132
- Hurd, "Doctor" Daniel, healer, 333-335
- Hurricanes, 462
- Ice Age, glaciers in, 5; Connecticut River's course deflected in, 6
- Ice houses, in Whitneyville, 297-298, 365, 366
- Incinerator, 457
- Indians, cave of, in Pine Rock, 12, 438; in Connecticut River valley, 6; estimated number of, 12, 13; legends of, 7, 8, 44; paid for wolf's head, 29; purchase of land from, 9-12; settled along sound, 12; traits of, 27
- Industries, Hamden, 391. *See* Manufacturing
- Ives, Chauncey, sculptor, 247-248
- , Eber, 52; Mt. Carmel store of, 126
- , Mrs. Eber, 151
- , Elam, 52, 168, 169
- , Mrs. Eli, 181
- , family, 132, 340-342
- , Frank G., funeral account of, 340
- , Frederick, 392; and Co., 292
- , Henry, 210, 292
- , James, 169, 292, 340, 357; Brass Works founder, 290; factory of, 269, 290, 291, 292, 309, 329; father of Eber and Elam, 52; house of, 180; president of Bolt Co., 333; son of Elam, 209; Water Co., organized by, 326
- , Jason, 168, 169, 208, 210
- , Jonathan, 61, 99; settler in Mt. Carmel, 52
- Ives, Lazarus, 56, 77, 177; builder of Ives homestead, 177; Sequestered Lands bought by, 52
- , Lucius, 211, 323, 340, 348, 365; Mt. Carmel postmaster, 343
- Ivesville, settled by Jonathan Ives, 52
- Jackson, President Andrew, 242; in New Haven, 212, 213
- , J. Frederick, 411
- , Rev. William, 441
- Jewish Center, 464
- Joslin, Dr. George, 208, 382; health officer, 363, 406, 453
- Judges' Cave, on West Rock, 5; Regicides sheltered in, 19, 38
- Keefe, Margaret L., 432; quoted, 403, 404; superintendent of schools, 395, 458
- Kelly, J. Frederick, designer of Eaton Centotaph, 20
- Kenyon, Mae, tax collector, 430
- , Walter, 393, 394, 396, 397; death of, 429, 430; Boy Scout master, 394; president Hamden Bank, 425
- Kimberly, Ezra, 118, 307; charter Mason, 119; mill of, 164
- , family, early Mt. Carmel settlers, 52, 53
- , Hobart, 308, 309
- , mills, 210
- , Roderick, 164, 187, 243, 308
- , store, 307-309; Mt. Carmel, 236
- Kingsbury, Fred B., 425
- Kossuth, Louis, 280-282
- LaFarge, Rev. John, quoted, 274-276
- Land allotments, 15, 20, 31, 35, 48, 186; bases for, 17; brickmakers, 22, 36; along the Quinnipiac, 22; on the Plains, 25; records of, 106; Third Division, 26;

- viewers of, 16; on western section, 21. *See also* Third Division allotments; property owners
- Larson School, 150, 459
- Lay, Dr. Walter S., 389; health officer, 390; telephone exchange in home of, 408; in World War I, 405, 406, 453
- Leeke, Horace, 257, 258; a freeman, 177
- , Russell, 236, 237, 250, 257, 309, 428; in charge of canal lock, 200; a freeman, 177
- Legion Field, 44; naming of, 420, 461
- Library, free public, 377, 378, 408, 424; in Hamden, 154, 379; Mt. Carmel, 376; Dixwell Ave. branch, 432, 454
- , Association, 376, 378
- Linton, William J., engraver, 310, 311
- Liquor, 123; license for, 354; prohibition of, 319; sale of, 338; spirituous, 244
- Little Quarter, 26, 28
- Loller, Charles, fire chief, 422, 460
- Lydia, last remaining squaw, 13
- Lyman, Norman, 332
- Machinery, standardized, Whitney's contribution to, 142, 143, 145, 147; almost unknown, 70. *See* Whitney, Eli
- Madison, President James, 161, 168; in Hamden, 180
- Mallon, Father Hugh, 273, 348
- Mann, Bela, 296
- Manufacturing in Hamden, 3, 162, 163, 209, 233, 234; imports to Colony, 43
- Marine Clock Co., 211
- Mayo Radiator Co., 407
- McKeon, Andrew, house, tollgate, 187
- McKinley, President, 375
- McNerney, John, 463
- Meadowbrook, 23, 455
- Meetinghouse, New England, described, 66; Mt. Carmel, 98
- Merriman, Charles, 305-307; poem of, 369
- Meteors, shower of, 213, 214
- Mexican War, 261, 262
- Militia, beginning of, 72; Hamden, 166; at Lake Champlain, 158; responsible for Sunday watch, 73
- Mills, 210; bolting, 53, 54; burned, 39; competition at, 40; Centerville, 258-261; Chatterton, 53; cider, turned into sorghum, 304; fulling, 40, 41; grist, 37, 49, 150, 364; Mt. Carmel, 59; not prospering, 53; New Haven's first, 135; of James Wyles, 163; Waite's, 279; Hamden, on Grimsden Hill, 164; linseed oil, 150; Job Munson's, 163, 165; Joel Munson's, 109; paper, 150, 166, 215, 258, 279; proposed at Beaver Ponds, 38; saw, 41, 49, 364; Bradley's, 164; as shelter for Regicides, 38; Doolittle's, 390; woolen, 177; Todd's 41, 50, 55, 142, 143; bought by, 149
- Mill Rock, 4, 16; mill at, 38, 39; Whitney holdings on, 150
- , River, 28, 33, 35, 41, 49
- Miller, Gertrude, 424
- , homestead, 179, 187
- , Mary, 405, 424, 454
- , Willis E., 292, 293, 294, 392, 424; station agent, 328
- Milling machine, invention of, 142
- Mining, in New Haven Colony, 44, 45
- Mix, Capt. Caleb, 79; charges against, 84; estate of, 266; home a meeting place, 112

- Mix, Jonathan, 77, 263; carriage spring inventor, 160, 161
 —, Norris, 298, 321, 373
 Momauguin, 10; number of Indians under, 13
 Moody, Wilfred, high school principal, 451, 459
 Mt. Carmel, 5, 9, 74; Dickerman and Ives family in, 51; early settlers, 52, 53
 —, Axle Works, 208, 292, 433
 —, Childrens' Home, 357, 417
 —, Church. *See* Church, Mt. Carmel
 —, Ecclesiastical Society, 59, 60, 79, 80, 89, 121, 312, 370; first meeting of, 61
 —, Traprock Co., 392
 —, Water Co., 326, 333
 —, Young Ladies Female Seminary, *see* Young Ladies Female Seminary
 Munson, Bazel, 75, 77, 89, 110; descendant of Joel, 345; viewer of highway, 128
 —, family, 112, 160; slaves of, 127
 —, Henry, 309, 323, 408; family of, 326
 —, Joel, 56, 181, 210, 345; mill of, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 109, 163; pound keeper, 59; slave owner, 164
 —, Capt. John, 41, 132; father of Joel, 48, 50; public wagon of, 129; transportation of, 42
 "The Neck," now called Fair Haven, 15, 31
 Neilsen, Peter, shop of, 236
 Nepaupuck, executed on New Haven Green, 13
 Nettleton, Elwood T., 454
 New Haven, boundaries of, 97; depot erected in, 234, 235; roads and bridges a burden to, 103; towns separated from, 88-90
 —, Colony, government of, 67, 68; as port of trade, 10; swept away by Connecticut charter, 68
 —, Colony Historical Society, 179; cotton gin model in, 140
 —, Green, 111, 207; as central marketplace, 15, 16; Gov. Eaton buried on, 19; Franklin elm on, 124, huckleberries on, 180; Nepaupuck executed on, 13; Sabbath houses on, 33; trees planted on, 245, 246
 —, Country Club, 332, 360
 —, County Agricultural Society, 265; fair of, 301
 —, Water Co., 149, 278, 279, 283, 284, 318, 326, 394; mill razed by, 39; lake property, purchased by, 363
 New Lebanon Mission, 322, 396
 North Haven, 55, 103; Gov'n. Eaton's land in, 17; and Mt. Carmel, 89; parish of, 59, 60, 61; town privileges requested by, 88, 89
 Oberlin, A. Frederick, 411, 412, 452
 O'Connell shop, 236
 Oldham, James, superintendent of schools, 387
 PAL, 461
 Pardee, Benjamin, 220, 287
 —, family, 220
 Pardee Manufacturing Co., 291, 328
 —, Stephen, 309; church services in home of, 119
 Parente, Dr. Leonard, 453, 457
 Parmeter, Riley, railway agent, 328
 Payne, Deacon James, 342, 368; hymn written by, 347, 350
 Peck, Alice, house of, 179
 —, Amos, 59, 179

- Peck, family, early Mt. Carmel settlers, 52, 53
 —, Florence, Hillfield School of, 405
 —, Friend, 384
 —, Henry, 179, 211, 280, 281
 —, Joseph, 77, 79, 127
 —, Lois, 180
 —, Lorenzo, 272, 329
 Pensions, 449, 463
 Pierpont, Rev. James, 53, 246, 390
 —, family, 132; home, 246
 —, Russell, 87, 187, 242, 324
 Pine Rock, 4, 438; Indian cave in, 12; road at, 16, 24, 28; ox pasture at, 24, 31
 Pinney, E. W., superintendent of town farm, 338
 Plaza shopping center, 455
 Police, 455
 Population, 331, 457
 Post Offices, 343, 454
 Potter, Edwin, 329, 375, 384
 Probate Court, 462
 Property owners, 59, 60, 133, 187; along canal, 190, 191
 Putnam, Rev. Austin, 216, 227, 270, 307, 347, 385; anniversary of, 342, 343; quoted, 348, 349

 Quinnipiac College, 459
 —, Indians, 10, 16; friendly to white man, 11; along New Haven Harbor, 12, 13
 —, River, 464

 Railroads, as canal competitor, 205, 207; chartered, 233; difficulties of, 330; as means of transportation, 206, 367; nonexistent, 184
 Recreation, 461
 Rectory School, 252, 253, 302, 321, 369, 400; bell of, 382; Centerville, 4
 Red Cross, 460
 Regicides, sheltered in Judges' Cave, 19; in grist mill, 38
 Revolver, Colt, 261. *See* Whitney Armory
 Reynolds, Julia, visiting nurse, 416
 Relief, 450
 Riley, Edward, slaughterhouse of, 325
 Roads, 26, 28, 337, 361; bonds for, 414; care of, 103, 127-134, 298; early, 57; widening of, 430, 455, 464
 Roberts, Charles, livery business of, 318; owner of Roberts House, 319
 Rochford, F. Raymond, first selectman, 437, 441, 442, 445; proclamation of, 439, 440; judge of probate, 462, 466
 Roe, Prof. Joseph, quoted, 183, 260

 Sabbath, colonial, 14, 33, 46, 62
 Sabin, Col. Hezekiah, 74, 123; landowner, 25, 27, 28
 Sackett, John, 29, 30; as fence viewer, 32
 —, Brook, 38
 Sanford, Edward, 444
 —, John, 343
 Schools, Hamden, 248-252, 367, 368, 416, 417, 451, 452; compulsory attendance at, 315; evening, 428; in early days, 71; expense of, 337, 414; growth of, 436, 437, 457; high school, 379, 404, 408, 459; Larson secretarial, 432, 459; Margaret L. Keefe, 458; visitors, 316, 317, 367, 378, 387, 458
 School Board, 315, 316, 449; vs. town officials, 312, 380-382, 383
 —, Districts, formation of, 250, 251, 313, 314, 363, 395
 —, Fund, 120, 176, 249, 312, 384

- Schuetzen Park, 327
 Sequestered Lands, 23, 177; mounds of, 46, 51
 Sesquicentennial, Hamden, 438-446
 Sewers, 407, 456
 Shannah, Constable Malachi, 366
 Shares, D. W., farm tools invented by, 294
 —, Horace, 364; brickmaker, 296, 391
 Shepherd's Brook, 23, 27, 33, 46, 47; Pen, changed to Gilbert's Farms, 25
 Sherman, Rev. Nathaniel, 65, 79, 110; house of, 178, 293
 "Shunpike," 134
 Silk, cultivation of native, 244, 245
 Slaves, in Hamden, 127
 Sleeping Giant, 3, 154; origin of, 4, 6, 7, 14; highway cut through, 47; scalping of, 405, 433
 —, Park, 51, 423, 424, 451
 —, Association, 179, 423, 433, 434
 Sleeping Giant Junior High School, 459
 Smith, Andrew, needles made by, 297
 —, Dr. Henry, report of, 374
 —, H. D., sleighbells made by, 298
 —, Nehemiah, Colony shepherd, 23, 26
 —, Williams, 75; brass castings made by, 210
 Soldiers, Hamden, 410-414, 418, 450; Continental Army, 76, 77; drafts of, 284, 285; memorials to, 413, 418; monument to soldiers and sailors, 353, 451
 Spring Glen, 264, 265, 331, 332, 423
 Stage coach, travel by, 129, 184, 235, 236, 332, 367
 Steinert, Morris, 397
 Steps, the, or Blue Hills, 46, 47, 211; mill at, 49
 Stiles, Ezra, Yale president, 78, 81, 137; quoted, 87, 102, 109, 111, 112, 117, 129, 140; silk cultivation sponsored by, 245
 —, Rev. Isaac, engaged in law suit, 64, 102
 Stone crusher, invention of, 186
 Swift, Dr. Edwin, 333; health officer, 338; quoted, 362, 363
 Swimming pool, 460
 Tallman, David, mined on Ridge Hill, 45
 Taxes church, 110, 118; first Hamden, 102; for highway, 128; rate, 425, 426, 450; school, 314; ship money, 92; town, 299
 Television, 455
 Thim, John R., 467
 Thimble Club, 378
 Third Division allotments, 26, 32, 34, 36; land grants in, 47; Sequestered Lands bought, 52, 111
 Tobin, Richard, superintendent of schools, 387, 395
 Todd, Christopher, 22; bakehouse built by, 50; mill property of, 38, 39; sons of, 40
 —, H. Irving, prize dairy farm of, 424
 —, Ithamar, 51, 181
 Todd family, migration of, 132, 158; mill, 41, 50, 55; purchased by Eli Whitney, 142, 143
 —, Obed, waterpower utilized by, 181
 —, Samuel, miller, 33, 40, 41, 236
 —, Simeon, forge of, 181
 Toll, 53, 184, 195; bridge, 19; churchgoers exempt from, 130; gatehouse, 130, 131, 133, 180; as matter of dissension, 134
 Toumey, Prof. James, 405, 423, 433

- Town, Ithiel, architect, 181, 234;
bust of, 247; covered bridge of,
279, 363; patent of, 182
——, Deposit Fund, 242, 243, 250,
268
——, Government Study Committee,
449
——, Meetings, 238-242; described,
356, 449, 466
——, Plan Board, 456
——, Farm, care of, 35, 54, 107,
241, 242, 268, 269, 338, 406,
461
——, Hall, 354, 417, 451, 465
Trade, English monopoly of, 69, 70,
129; rivalry in, 184; with South,
209
Traders, Dutch, first white men in
New Haven Harbor, 9; tran-
sactions with Indians, 10
Traprock, formation of, 4, 5, 47;
Hamden's continued use of, 97;
on Mt. Carmel, 405; last of, 438
Travel, canal, 196, 211; by horseback,
177; omnibus, 300, 301; stage-
coach, 184; steamboat, 184
Treadwell, Oliver, 315, 316, 343
Trumbull, Rev. Benjamin, 12, 81,
102; *Complete History of Con-
necticut*, 60, 61
——, Brother Jonathan, 80; bust of,
247
Turnpike, called "Dog Lane," 156;
charter surrendered by, 236;
company, 130; difficulties of,
330
Tuttle, Ambrose, 238; captain, 167,
270
——, family, 158, 160; early Mt.
Carmel settlers, 52, 53
——, Fred, layman judge, 373; post-
master, 343
——, Henry, 270, 272, 348, 360,
361
——, Leverett, 166, 167, 238
Tuttle, Nathaniel, 19, 56, 238
——, Sybil, wife of Amasa, 170, 222,
399, 415
Vanden Heuvel, Charles, owner of
sugar estates, 162, 163; estate of,
265
Viewers, of land, 16, 22; of fences,
30, 31, 99; road, 181; haywards,
160
Visiting Nurse Association, 416
Wadsworth, Capt. Decius, quoted, 145
Wakefield, Harmon, 332; Mrs. 405
——, John, miller, 32, 37
Warner, Benjamin, first settler of
Warnertown, 48, 77
——, Ebenezer, 48, 77, 418
——, Eneas, 325, 371
——, family, 222
——, Frank, 384, 393, 425
——, Lewis, 270
——, Mansfield & Stiles Brick Co.,
296
——, George W., 411, 425, 444;
first selectman, 436; schoolhouse
erected by, 382, 383, 462
Warning of meetings, 33, 61, 119; of
the poor, 106; of strangers, 98,
99
Water power, 177, 279, 280; from
canal, 204; factor in production,
135
Webb, Darius, 227
——, family, 162
——, James H., 411; tallyho of, 367
Webb, James J., 227, 264, 265, 284,
302, 315, 332, 342, 348
Web Shop, bought by American Mills.
Co., 408
Western Reserve, 120
West Rock, 4, 37; Judges' Cave on,
5; claypits at, 27, 97; roads to,
28; copper found at, 45; boun-
dary at, 46; colonists fled to, 81

- West Woods, formerly Warnertown, 48
 —, School, 459
 Whalen, Michael J., 397; town clerk, 437, 462
 Whiting, Capt. Jared, 167
 Whitney Armory, 181, 280, 300, 325; dam at, 278; site, 408; Whitney-Walker-Colt manufactured by, 262; water for, 318
 —, Arms Co., 135, 164, 166, 233, 261, 280; absorbed by Winchester Arms Co., 364
 Whitney Blake Co., 407, 453
 —, Eli, 240; biographical account of, 135; house of, 148; letter to Wolcott, 141, 142; standardized machinery developed by, 142, 143, 145, 147
 —, Eli, 2nd, 148, 215, 261, 278, 282, 348; dam erected by, 279; death of, 369; manufacturer of Whitney - Walker - Colt, 262; quoted, 288
 —, Eli, 3rd, 383
 —, Rifles, 148, 149, 262, 288, 289, 408
 William, Elijah, airport manager, 427
 —, Richard, 419
 Wilmot, Benjamin, 22, 31, 41
 —, family, 22
 —, Goodman, requested use of claypits, 37
 —, Brook, 40, 388; between Pine and West Rocks, 41
 Winchester Repeating Arms Co., 364
 Wolcott, Oliver, 140, 147, 189; Eli Whitney's letter to, 141, 142; aid given to Whitney, 142
 Woodin, Benjamin, 99, 388, 389
 —, family, 23, 112, 222; home of, 27
 —, Javin, 108, 152; account book of, 123, 126; quoted, 212, 249; old schoolhouse purchased by, 250
 Woodruff, Arthur, 300, 366, 444
 —, Mrs. 420
 —, & Miller, 339
 World War II, 451
 WPA project, adult education, 430, 431, 446, 451
 Wright, Walden, 421
 Wyles, James, 163; grist mill of, 160
 Yale College, Lake Whitney used by, 359, 360; library of, 234; Congregational powers at, 55; Eli Whitney at, 136; preachers supplied from, 110, 111; removed from Saybrook, 6
 Young Ladies Female Seminary, 256, 258, 288, 311; residence of James Ives, 357
 Zelatrices, Missionary, of the Sacred Heart, 464
 Zoning Board, 449, 456, 457

